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Crespo

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Munich meltdown

The fallout from Germany's most humiliating defeat

Dutch disaster

How Holland crashed out

BENFICA, OLIVER BIERHOFF, PAVEL NEDVED, HECTOR CUPER, MICHAEL OWEN

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October 2001

HOW do you explain that extraordinary scoreline from Munich: Germany 1 England 5? The short answer is that you can't. Whatever way you look at it, either by analysing Germany's weaknesses or assessing England's strengths, it was a freak result. A rogue scoreline. Something we are unlikely to witness again for some time.

Tempting as it may be to join in the celebrations, we have tried to place the Germany-England game in some sort of global context.

Hence our cover star, Hernan Crespo, the man whose goals have enabled Argentina to cruise through the South American World Cup qualifiers. If Sven Goran Eriksson's side are suddenly world-beaters, as some in England would have us believe, somebody should tell Argentina, who can rightly claim to be the strongest side in the world right now.

An arguably more significant result than Munich took place in Dublin, also on September 1. If England had failed to reach next year's finals, I would have had no problem accepting it, but a World Cup without Holland is going to take some getting used to.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

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Bavarian goalfest!

Eriksson masterminds Germany's humiliation in Munich

AN EXTRAORDINARY match and a result that will reverberate around the world. But enough of Holland's 1-0 defeat by a 10-man Republic of Ireland team which as good as ended Dutch hopes of reaching next year's World Cup finals.

In Munich's Olympiastadion on the night of Saturday, September 1, English football inflicted humiliation on Germany, whose defence crumbled at the lightning-quick feet of Michael Owen.

A hat-trick by Owen, and goals from his Liverpool team-mates Steven Gerrard and Emile Heskey, sealed, arguably, Germany's most devastating sporting loss.

The English press were triumphalist in hailing the heroes of Munich, and were quick to draw parallels with 1966. 'It doesn't get any better than this' was a common theme.

Across Europe, the match made a deep impact. For Germany's *Die Welt* it was "the greatest-ever slap in the face for German football", while Madrid-based *AS* paid tribute to "a spectacular and historic thrashing in Munich".

Others concentrated on the role of Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson in turning around the fortunes of the English national side. "Mr Eriksson humiliates Voller" declared Italy's *Corriere dello Sport*, while *Kicker* acknowledged "Eriksson – the saviour of the Motherland of Football". *Gazzetta dello Sport* echoed much of the English press by calling, somewhat mischievously, for Eriksson to be knighted.

The French press were more circumspect, with *Le Parisien* reporting: "England stun Germany. The English steal the show in Munich thanks to their little marvel Michael Owen."

Owen was on target again four days later when England laboured to a 2-0 victory over Albania in Newcastle. The result took Eriksson's side to the top of Group 9 on goal difference. Victory against Greece on October 6 will seal automatic qualification for 2002 – barring a German goal deluge against Finland.

Reaching the finals either automatically or via the play-offs is now impossible for Holland. Portugal's 3-1 defeat of Cyprus took Antonio Oliveira's men to the top of Group 2, with the Irish now assured of a play-off place at least.

Beating England and Portugal to automatic qualification were Poland, Spain, Sweden and Costa Rica, who all booked their tickets to Japan and Korea in the past month.

Full story, page 20

● 13/08/01...Josep Guardiola is told to find a club or miss the World Cup by Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho

● 14/08/01...Portugal captain Fernando Couto is confident that his worldwide drugs ban will be reduced on appeal

● 15/08/01...Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld says Owen Hargreaves is not ready to play senior international football. "If Sven Goran Eriksson picks him it will be a mistake"

● 15/08/01...Gerald Asamoah (no 7) is one of the stars as Germany beat Hungary 5-2 in a friendly to mark the Hungarian FA centenary

Larsson claims his prize

Nick Bidwell on Celtic's Swedish striker and Europe's top scorer for 2000-01

NEVER mind the cynics who claim that sub-standard Scottish club defences were a major factor in Henrik Larsson's 35 League goals for Celtic last season and his ESM Golden Shoe as Europe's leading marksman. The Swede thoroughly deserved to get his hands on the 21-carat prize.

By any standard, Larsson's goal tally was a quite magnificent achievement.

With all opposition coaches and defenders in the Scottish Premier League making it their number one priority to stop the Swede at all costs, nobody was exactly rolling out the red carpet. Yet he still found a way through, compiling the extraordinary total of 53 goals in all competitions and providing the platform for Celtic's domestic treble of League, Scottish Cup and League Cup.

Every type of goal featured in his haul: intuitive close-range finishes, blistering shots, volleys, chips, headers, the invariably successful one-on-ones with the keeper and, of course, some extra-special efforts, notably the delightful lob in Celtic's 6-2 hammering of Rangers back in August 2000.

After an amazingly swift recovery from the double leg fracture suffered against Lyon in October 1999, Larsson might have been expected to ease himself back into competitive action last season. Far from it. However, as Rangers boss Dick Advocaat points out, 'Henke' Larsson is not just about goalscoring exploits. "He is one of the best players in Europe and maybe the world," said Advocaat. "Someone like Gabriel Batistuta is a real quality finisher. But I think Larsson has even more to him. Besides being a good player and goalscorer, he works very hard for the team, and that is so important."

Despite all the plaudits raining down on him, you will not catch Larsson allowing his ego to run wild. He may have won both Scottish Player of the Season awards last term and recently became the best-paid player in Celtic history, signing a one-year extension to his contract that will keep him at Parkhead until 2004 and guarantee him a reported £32,000 weekly pay packet. But he remains a modest and laid-back character for whom the team's interests are paramount.

Not surprising then that he should heap praise on his team-mates when receiving his ESM Golden Shoe at the UEFA gala in Monte Carlo, saying: "I couldn't have done it on my own. I'm only here because of what the whole team achieved in the past year."

Some have accused Larsson of lacking ambition, of preferring to be a big fish in a relatively small pool in the SPL rather than testing himself in one of the stronger European leagues. But why should he?

His goal spree since arriving from Feyenoord for a knockdown £650,000 in the summer of 1997 – 122 goals at the start of this season – means he is worshipped by Celtic fans, he has a lucrative contract, loves life north of the border and now has Champions League football to look forward to.

Although there was talk of him leaving Parkhead during the summer, Larsson insists he always saw his future with the Bhoys. "I never had any intention of moving. Celtic have just had a fantastic season and from day one my wish was to stay with the club. There were stories linking me with sides like Barcelona and Manchester United which simply were not true.

"The grass is always greener in other places, but I'm still progressing here at Celtic every day. I'll see out my contract with them for the next three seasons and then I'll definitely return to Sweden."

Hot shot...Larsson gets a pat from Martin O'Neill on receiving the ESM Golden Shoe at the UEFA gala

The month in pictures

● 16/08/01...Ipswich Town complete the £4.5 million signing of goalkeeper Matteo Sereni from Sampdoria of Serie B

● 16/08/01...Ronaldo confirms he will play his first game at San Siro since November 1999, in a friendly against Enyimba Lagos of Nigeria

● 17/08/01...West Ham say they will sue the English FA after David James damaged knee ligaments in England's friendly against Holland

TALENT SCOUT: **Fernando Torres**

Jeff King on one of the likely stars of the Under-17 World Championship

THE 27 coaches and more than 150 players that have been on Atletico Madrid's pay-roll in Jesus Gil's 14 years at the Calderon stadium are evidence that the polemical president reacts to setbacks by throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Atletico's failure to escape Division Two at the first attempt means the only resemblance between their 2001-02 squad and last season's model will be the red and white stripes. This time, however, Gil has decided to throw out everything but the baby.

At the start of this season, Fernando Torres was only a few months beyond blowing out the candles on his 17th birthday cake and boasted just 169 minutes of first-team action. He was also the only Atletico player who is untouchable.

The Madrid-born striker's performances at last April's European Under-16 Championship pushed the Spanish media's hype meter into overdrive. Widespread comparisons with Marco Van Basten are premature, but instructive. Like the great Dutchman, Torres is a strikingly upright figure who combines elegance of execution with effectiveness. His seven goals against his European peers included Spain's quarter-final clincher against Italy, a double against Croatia in the semi-final, and the winner against France in the Final.

On his return, Torres found himself pitched from youth team to first team as Atletico strived to recover ground in the promotion race. He was greeted like a saviour by 54,000 fans when he made a late debut against Leganes at the Calderon. A week later, he scored the only goal at Albacete seven minutes after coming off the bench; in 17 productive minutes he also managed to get two opponents sent off! Twelve minutes into his third cameo against Sporting Gijon, two more hapless opponents were shown red cards for fouls on the youngster.

Despite Torres' starring role in the season's climax, Tenerife pipped Atletico to the third promotion spot on goal difference.

It was typical of Gil's dubious financial practices that Atletico had to shell out to retain their teenage standard-bearer.

Within days of Spain's European Under-16 triumph, Gil used Torres as collateral to secure a loan from Valencia. As a result, Atletico are obliged to pay the Champions League runners-up £1.7million or hand over their prime asset.

Given Gil's track record with home-grown talent (this is the man who lost Raul to Real Madrid after slashing the youth team's budget), Atletico fans breathed a collective sigh of relief when Gil made good the first of two instalments on June 28.

"I'm not going to leave Atletico like Raul," insists Torres, who will lead Spain's challenge at the Under-17 World Championship in Trinidad and Tobago this month. "People compare us because I made my debut at the same age, but my grandad schooled me to believe Atletico are the only club that matters. My ambition is to emulate Raul, but in red and white."

NOTES AND QUOTES

"I have never seen a team show so little fighting spirit."
New Greece boss Otto Rehhagel reacts with customary bluntness to his team's 5-1 World Cup loss in Finland.

"I fail to see how we can be accused of lacking ambition when we have a budget of £55million and 19 internationals in the squad."
Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas defends the sale of French international attacker Steve Marlet to Fulham.

"It's fair to say some of us here thought Cuper's tactics were boring."
Valencia right-back Jocelyn Angloma favourably compares the adventurous style of new coach Rafa Benitez with the ways of his predecessor Hector Cuper, now at Internazionale.

Seeking adventure...Jocelyn Angloma

● 20/08/01...Juventus make another bid for Perugia's Italian international playmaker Fabio Liverani, but it is rebuffed

● 21/08/01...Former Italy manager Cesare Maldini is named as one of the contenders to take over as national coach of Tunisia

● 21/08/01...Johan Micoud is set to leave Parma after being banned from training. "They said I had a negative attitude"

● 22/08/01...Fulham sign another Frenchman, £3.3 million Bordeaux midfielder Sylvain Legwinski, who played under coach Jean Tigana at Monaco

Q & A: Hector Cuper

Internazionale's new coach talks to Dominique Antognoni

What are your first impressions of Inter?
I've been banking on the squad having a high level of fitness and I haven't been disappointed in that – they've all stuck to their training programme and it's all going to plan. The team are up to the biggest fitness challenges, and that's a great comfort to know.

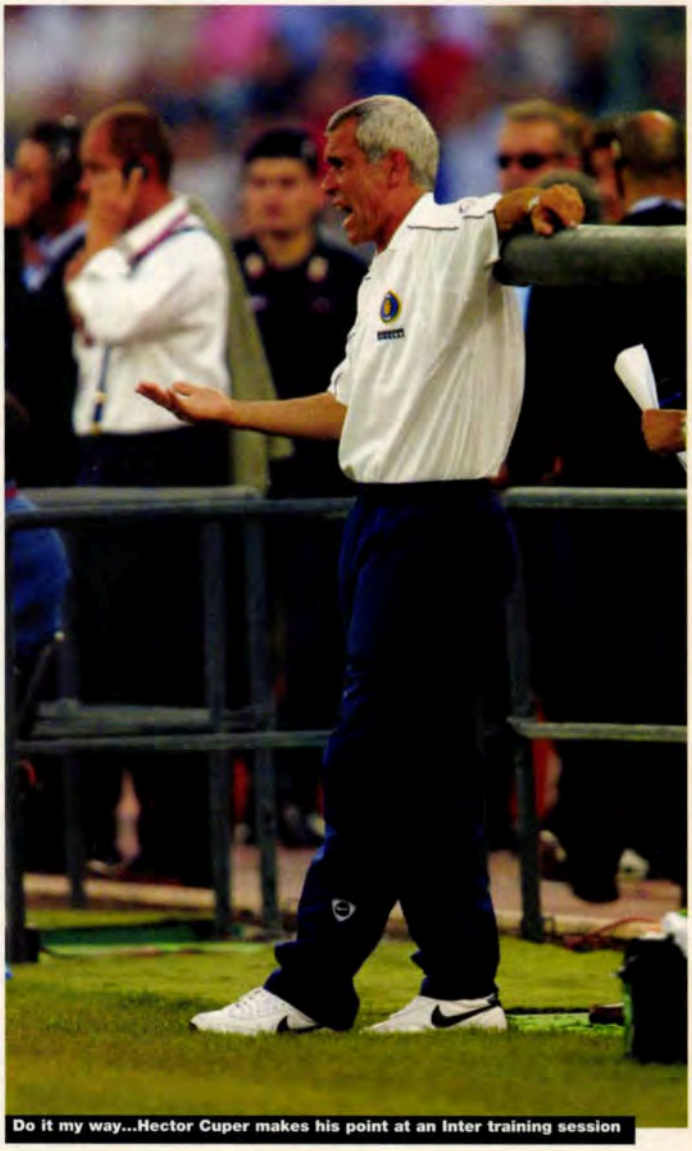
You gave them a very tough pre-season.
That's true, but you tire yourself out in order to do better in future. If you don't train really hard, you never get the results.

Are you happy with the performance they are giving you? Are they responsive to your ideas?
You can always hope for more but, nevertheless, I am seeing great things from them. They're working hard, they're determined, and, in time, they're going to deliver even better results. That's going to take greater organisation and greater application.

Inter have been the revelation of the summer. Nobody saw them as favourites, but now all that has changed.
Well, let's keep calm. For now, I'm happy, but we've got to take each stage at a time. We can't rest on our laurels. The feeling is that without Vieri and Ronaldo, it won't be possible to reach the very top. But we're working towards one goal – to be a total squad, a real team. The team comes first, always. Sure, the Vieri-Ronaldo pairing is a fantastic prospect, which Inter – and the entire football world – is fond of. Before his injury, Ronaldo was the greatest player in the world and now you're seeing him hit the same level.

When Vieri turned up, people said no one could make him stay. But he has stayed. How did you convince him?
I only knew Vieri as a player from when he was at Atletico Madrid, and obviously I like him a lot. He's very proud of his achievements and he works very hard indeed. He's very happy with himself, and I'm happy with him too.

Going back to your time at Valencia, what did that gesture mean from your team – that beating of the chest before going on to the pitch?
It was a way of showing the other side that they would be up against players who had belief in themselves. It was also a way of saying to ourselves that we were proud – and that we were going on to the pitch to give our all. [Full-back Amedeo] Carboni thought it was a great motivating gesture. I try to communicate with my players, to make them understand that the money they earn comes only as a result of the work they put in and that a lost match should be felt like a blow – they should feel bad. They shouldn't think that, no matter how a match ends, they're going to get their money anyway – that they don't need to try.



Do it my way...Hector Cuper makes his point at an Inter training session

The month in pictures

● 23/08/01...Carlo Mazzone quits as coach of Brescia following his side's InterToto Cup final defeat by Paris Saint-Germain

● 23/08/01...Arsenal claim manager Arsene Wenger has committed himself to signing a new contract to stay for another four years

● 24/08/01...At the UEFA gala in Monaco, Bayern Munich midfielder Stefan Effenberg is voted Europe's Most Valuable Player of 2000-01

A player must understand that it's an honour to pull on the shirt of a club with so much tradition and history; they should feel proud.

How will this Inter team be playing?
A little like Valencia last season. We'll be seeking to dictate the game – away from home as much as at San Siro. That's not to say we'll always win, but the first step is to be proactive. Then, if you have that mindset, it'll come to you naturally to dominate the game. I want a team who are psychologically strong, who know how to play good football but who know, above all, how to struggle, to battle and to overcome.

Are you happy with your first-team line-up? Will there be any changes?
It depends on what happens with Alvaro Recoba [currently banned until the end of June next year for using a false passport]. The club will do all it can to end his ban and, in the meantime, he mustn't become demoralised. He'll have to have great strength of character. We won't abandon him. If the decision to ban him is upheld, it's possible that another striker could be bought, but I won't go into details. It's something that would need to be decided with the club.

Who do you tip to win the *scudetto*?
I want Inter to be the strongest side. That's all. The rest are no affair of mine.

Roy Hodgson
OPINION

Germany had no answer to Eriksson's England

I WASN'T at all surprised that England beat Germany in Munich. I had predicted it, but the margin of victory surprised everybody. Not many teams lose 5-1 at home any more. It tends to be only the minnows; but look at Malta, they lost only 3-2 to the Czech Republic and that was away.

Fairytale...England's Munich triumph

But England looked the better team on paper before they took the field in Munich and once they went ahead, Germany had no weapons with which to fight back. They did not know how to attack, they did not know how to find a way through the English midfield. I was impressed by the way England pressurised the game. Germany had no answer to the pressure of Owen and Heskey in attack or when they dropped back and went out wide.

The England midfield, particularly Steven Gerrard, screened the ball very well. Germany were reduced to sending long balls up to Carsten Jancker, and that is not their game. They could not read the knockdowns, England were much better at that.

Sven Goran Eriksson has done a very good job. His players have shown good qualities and togetherness at club level, for Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Leeds, and he has transferred that to the national side.

So where does that leave Germany? In a play-off against Ukraine, but they will win that, I don't doubt it. I have said that Germany and England will both qualify for the World Cup finals. Even after Munich, I have no reason to change that view.

NOTES AND QUOTES

"I'm not in the best of form. I'm very much aware that I'm not performing as people and I expected."
Even the world's most expensive player, Zinedine Zidane, has his periods of self-doubt.

Challenging Stam...Simone Inzaghi

"I will say hello to him, but he has to tell me to my face if he really believes what was written in his book."
Lazio striker Simone Inzaghi on hearing that Jaap Stam had signed for the Roman club. In his autobiography Stam claimed that both Inzaghi brothers, Simone and Pippo, were prone to dive.

"They had one chance and they scored. We just did not get the luck."
Holland boss Louis Van Gaal after the defeat against the Republic of Ireland which effectively sealed World Cup elimination for the Oranje.

● 27/08/01...Nuno Gomes, Tomas Repka and Alex Pierini could all be sold as Fiorentina seek to clear part of their estimated £45million debt

● 28/08/01...In one of the most surprising transfers of recent times, Jaap Stam joins Lazio from Man Utd

● 29/08/01...Edgar Davids and Parma's Stefano Torrisi are banned for five months by the Italian FA after failing drugs tests last season

● 29/08/01...PSV say they will not sell Kevin Hofland to Manchester United, who are looking to replace Jaap Stam

Q & A: Giovanni Trapattoni

The Italian national coach talks to Keir Radnedge

Great expectations...Giovanni Trapattoni

'I'm seriously considering taking Roberto Baggio to the World Cup. You don't ignore such talent and experience lightly'

Are you satisfied with the attitude of your players at the start of the pre-World Cup season?

I am happy with all my players but particularly with those who have changed clubs, because they will have found a new motivation for their game. They will feel they have a lot to prove to new clubs and new fans this season. That reflects well on the national team. I am not so happy with players who have said that we are virtually qualified for the finals and can relax a little. That's the wrong approach entirely.

Can Italy become the first European nation to win a World Cup outside the continent?

I can't be that specific. Too many factors play their part. But I expect us to reach the semi-finals, and after that anything can happen. My favourites are France, Argentina, Spain and Brazil – assuming they qualify. The Brazilians have struggled because they have not been able to make up for the absence of Ronaldo and because their opponents are no longer in awe of them.

If the World Cup were kicking off tomorrow, who would be in your team?

The nucleus is there already. We have had a few injury problems in the qualifying competition so far. I would certainly have used Christian Vieri regularly at centre-forward had he been fit. He will always have a place in my squad. Francesco Totti has earned himself a place. He has improved dramatically over the past couple of years. It may seem strange but he reminds me of Eusebio: as quick mentally as he is physically.

What about Roberto Baggio. Will you consider taking him to the finals even though he would be 35 by then?

I am seriously considering taking him. You do not ignore so much talent and experience lightly. We will have to see how he plays this season. Whether he goes or not will be one of the last decisions for me. I know he is very popular with fans in the Far East but that will have no bearing on my decision. Form and fitness are all that count.

Do you expect a lot of pressure from your own fans?

It's inevitable. I don't think the present team is that far off the level of the 1982 World Cup-winning side. There are a couple of positions in which we still need to find the right players. There are similarities in the build-up. Italy finished in the top four in the World Cup and European Championship immediately before 1982. It's a bit the same this time. We reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup in France and were runners-up in the European finals.

Who are your favourites for the Serie A title this season?

Juventus, Milan or Roma, with Internazionale the most dangerous outsiders. I will be fascinated to see what happens there. Inter have a new coach in Hector Cuper and have obviously worked on a particular strategy in the transfer market. Also, hopefully, they will have Vieri and Ronaldo fit for all the season. Toldo is an important signing in goal, and I am a great admirer of the young Turkish player, Emre, in midfield.

What about the other clubs?

My old club Milan have also spent well, on Rui Costa in midfield and Pippo Inzaghi in attack. Maybe they need a bit more strength in the centre of defence. That's all. Juventus are as strong as ever, even though Zinedine Zidane has gone. But that is not necessarily decisive. I remember when I coached Juventus in the early 1980s, we once refused to sign Paolo Rossi because he was too expensive and we still won the championship.

Cuper is Argentinian, Fatih Terim at Milan is Turkish and an Englishman, Roy Hodgson, has been appointed at Udinese. Are there too many foreign coaches in Serie A?

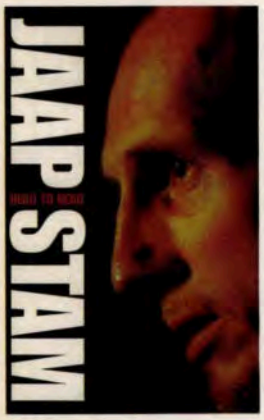
It's a risk for any club. Employing a foreign coach is something you should not take lightly. I speak from personal experience after my time in Germany at Bayern Munich. There's very little time for a coach to adjust to the different football atmosphere or the lifestyle. They say football is an international language but nothing is easy at this level – whether you coach a club or a national team.

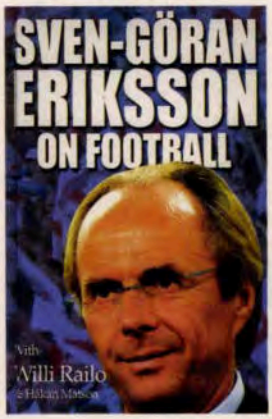
The month in pictures

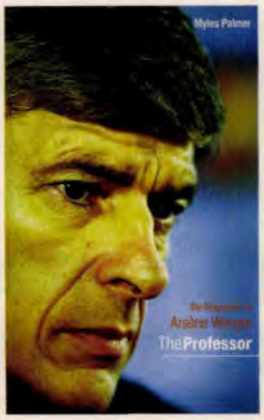
● 30/08/01...Laurent Blanc, 35, joins Manchester United on a free transfer from Internazionale

● 31/08/01...Tomislav Ivic returns as coach of Marseille, just weeks after leaving the troubled club

● 01/09/01...Jason McAteer scores the only goal of the game as the Republic of Ireland win 1-0 in Dublin to end Holland's hopes of reaching the 2002 World Cup finals







BOOKS

HEAD TO HEAD

Jaap Stam with Jeremy Butler

CollinsWillow, £16.99

The book that supposedly resulted in Stam being sold by Manchester United to Lazio. After reading it, it is hard to see what all the fuss is about.

Stam is neither vindictive nor disloyal to his United team-mates. If anything, he has been naive for agreeing to a book deal with a ghost writer who has over-egged the pudding and a publisher under pressure to pull off a newspaper serialisation deal. Far from criticising his team-mates, Stam praises Gary Neville for his commitment to United, claiming he is management material. As for the claim that David Beckham "will not be asked to take a turn in the black chair of *Mastermind*", if those were Stam's actual words, I'm Alex Ferguson.

Incidentally, in the next sentence, Stam says "David's not thick, he's just a normal guy having to put up with a lot of shit thrown at him by people who don't even know his true personality."

Ferguson claims that he wants to build United's defence around a player, Laurent Blanc, who can read the game. Unlike Stam, who didn't even read his own autobiography.

SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON ON FOOTBALL

Sven-Goran Eriksson with Willi Railo and Hakan Matson

(Carlton, £12.99)

Not so much England coach Eriksson's views on football, more of a self-help handbook by Swedish sports psychologist Railo, with quotes from Eriksson dropped in to provide added authenticity. You wonder at the extent of Eriksson's involvement – it's not as if he needed to top up his £2million-a-year salary with a bit of moonlighting media work.

At times it is hard to sort the interesting analytical nuggets from the scientific claptrap. But it's a timely release by Carlton.

THE PROFESSOR: THE BIOGRAPHY OF ARSENE WENGER

Myles Palmer

(Virgin Books, £18.99)

I can only presume Virgin are unconcerned that the title of Myles Palmer's new book would test the patience of even the most sympathetic of trading standards officers.

Biography it is not. Of the book's 290 pages, just 15 are spent discussing Arsene Wenger's life before he arrived at Highbury in 1996. That is a great pity because the book barely scratches the surface of his time in Japan and Monaco, let alone his early years.

But as you would expect from a stalwart of the Highbury press room – Palmer asks the press conference questions that others are too busy or too lazy to ask – this is an illuminating account of Arsenal's five seasons under the Frenchman.

Gavin Hamilton

NOTES AND QUOTES

"It really takes something to make Paolo [Maldini] angry, so the fact this story did, says everything."
Milan defender Alessandro Costacurta hits out at press stories that he and Maldini told coach Fatih Terim which players to include in a disappointing 2-2 opening day draw at Brescia.

"Without being critical of any player I think David Regis had breakdowns that led to every goal."
US coach Bruce Arena gets himself in a twist after seeing his side crumble to Honduras in a World Cup qualifier.

"The days of artistic football are over."
Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari. RIP jogo bonito.

Bearer of bad tidings...Scolari

"It's easy to kill a man and then walk over and say sorry."
Red Star Belgrade coach Slavoljub Muslin ostracises striker Mihajlo Pjanovic, who claimed Muslin picked players for Champions League games with a view to selling them on and taking a cut from the transfer fees.

● 02/09/01...Bertalan Bicskei is sacked as Hungary coach after the 3-1 defeat by Georgia

● 02/09/01...Referee Graham Poll is heavily criticised after awarding a controversial last-minute penalty which enabled Slovenia to beat Russia 2-1 in a crucial World Cup qualifier

● 03/09/01...Louis Van Gaal insists he will stay on as Holland coach despite failing to reach the World Cup finals

● 04/09/01...Christian Panucci is transfer-listed as Monaco coach Didier Deschamps tries to improve on a dismal start to the season

Paul Gardner
GLOBAL VIEW

Time for coaches to shut up and let the results do the talking

I REALLY do think that I've had it with these stupid scorelines. This sort of thing: Chile 2 France 1, immediately followed by Chile 0 Venezuela 2. I mean, does that make any sense at all, what with France being world champions and Venezuela never having won an away game before?

No it does not. As a soccer commentator, columnist, whatever, I'm supposed to explain all this? Well, I can't – any more than I can work out what Holland are doing losing to 10-man Ireland.

No, maybe I do have a clue about that one. After all, the Dutch are coached by Louis Van Gaal, Louis the Great. Now this is a guy who knows exactly how football should be played. We know that for a fact because he's told us so, repeatedly.

This is the guy who kept Rivaldo on the bench at Barcelona because the Brazilian didn't want to play football the Louis way. Never at a loss for explanations that emphasise his own importance, Van Gaal told the world: "Rivaldo became Rivaldo only by playing in my Barcelona – that is when he learned to tactically discipline his inventiveness."

So that makes my attempts at analysis easy. These results are about coaching. When the coach considers himself that important, then he must be to blame when things go wrong. And for Holland they did go badly wrong. What on earth are a team with all that talent – all that *attacking* talent – doing when they are reduced to banging long, high balls into the Irish goalmouth?

"No player is more important than the philosophy," is one of Van Gaal's pronouncements, meaning his philosophy. So what went wrong here – the philosophy or the players?

As it was Van Gaal who took off the midfielders, leaving no one to serve the ball properly to all those forwards he sent on, I'd say the philosophy took a beating.

Not that Louis the Great feels any responsibility for this colossal fiasco. He has announced that he is staying on as coach.

> 'The less communication during a game the better. The coach has all week to get his ideas across'

Apparently his Dutch federation bosses will just have to accept that.

The bosses in England are feeling a good deal happier. They found themselves in a desperate situation after Kevin Keegan produced yet another failure. And yikes! They turned to Sven Goran Eriksson, a foreigner if you please.

And the Swedish lad done well – hasn't he ever. Which gets me to another ridiculous result that defies interpretation. Germany 1 England 5 – are you kidding me?

England that good? Or just a bad day at the office for the Germans? Probably the latter. We've seen this before, you know, quite recently.

A mere eight years ago, September 5, 1993, in Buenos Aires, the score was Argentina 0 Colombia 5 in a World Cup qualifier. It meant Argentina had to play off against Australia, but they survived to the point where they may be the world's best right now.

It seems likely that the Germans will survive, too, though I'd have to admit to some shadows of doubt here. The most astonishing thing about the game against England was the way in which the Germans just seemed to cave in during the second half. It was so very un-German.

As far as England are concerned, can it be that they've had all these great players for so long who've never been able to do anything – until Eriksson came along and unlocked their talents?

Doesn't seem too likely to me, yet Eriksson inevitably, in this coach-dominated age, is being lauded to the heavens. The thing about Eriksson is that he seems always able to keep his feet on the ground, never to get carried away with his own importance.

It all sounds so different from Louis Van Gaal. But I wonder. Because Eriksson, for all his diffidence, evidently has a pretty inflated view of the coach's role.

Two years ago the Swede had this to say: "I think that sooner or later we must have the time-out so that we can improve communications with the players during the game."

Better communications? How about Wanderley Luxemburgo's experiment of fitting some of his players with mini ear phones so that he could keep in constant radio contact with them?

For my money, the less communication during the game the better. Get rid of the technical area, make the coach sit down and shut up. He has all week to get his schemes and ideas across.

Come Saturday or Sunday – let the players get on with it.

The month in pictures

● 05/09/01...Belgium are favourites to qualify automatically from their World Cup group after their 2-0 win over Scotland in Brussels. The Scots now have little chance of qualifying

● 05/09/01...Luis Figo equals the Portuguese record after he wins his 77th cap, against Cyprus

● 06/09/01...Veteran French keeper Bernard Lama is poised to join Sunderland to replace the injured Thomas Sorensen

ROUND-UP

Matthaus rolls in at Rapid

LOTHAR MATTHAUS has taken his first coaching role after being handed a two-year contract by Rapid Wien. The club fought off competition from fellow Austrians Grazer AK for the services of the former captain of Germany.

"I believe that I fit in at Rapid," said 40-year-old Matthaus, who quit his playing career last November after a spell at MLS side MetroStars. "They are a workers' club and I am from a working-class family. That is where I have learned to graft for success.

"I am aware people from Vienna don't like Bavarians or the German national side, but I like them and, once I'm there a while, they will start to like me."

Matthaus is officially the Austrian club's sport director since he does not hold the licence necessary to take the title of coach. That position has instead been given to **Gunther Guttler**, a former Bayern Munich team-mate of Matthaus.

The former World Player of the Year got off to an inauspicious start, however, watching Rapid lose 1-0 to bottom-placed Admira Wacker, their fourth defeat in a row. He also became embroiled in a post-match argument with Admira boss Hans Krankl, the former Austria international, after Rapid had had a goal disallowed for offside and two players sent off.

"I've only been here for two days and I'm not the messiah," Matthaus moaned afterwards.

COACHES ON THE MOVE

Hungary boss **Bertalan Bicskei** was fired following the 3-1 World Cup qualifying defeat by Georgia, a "humiliating" result according to FA president Imre Bozoky. "The team has hit the depths," he added.

Jamaica's technical director **Clovis De Oliveira** was another victim of the most recent Korea/Japan preliminaries, losing his job following the Reggae Boyz' 1-0 defeat away to Honduras.

In Africa, **Eckhard Krautzen** was sacked by Tunisia a month after steering them into the World Cup finals. The decision came after the federation failed to reach agreement with the German coach over preparations for the 2002 World Cup finals.

Louis Watunda now has the Africa Nations Cup in his sights after being appointed coach of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He replaced **Mulamba Mukeba**, who had taken up the post only four months before.

Mauritania have named Argentinian **Ricardo Gaudio** as their new national coach.

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

Switzerland trio **Marco Pascolo**, **Stephane Chapuisat** and **Stephane Henchoz** all announced their decision to quit international football in the wake of their side's 2-1 World Cup defeat by Yugoslavia. The result as good as ended Switzerland's hopes of reaching the finals.

OBITUARIES

The TV commentator **Brian Moore** has died aged 69, just hours before England's recent victory in Munich. Brian was a friend of *World Soccer*, just as he was a friend of everybody in football who knew him.

He gave his final commentary for ITV on the 1998 World Cup Final.

Ex-South Africa international **Sizwe Motaung** has died aged 31 following a long illness. The highlight of the right-back's 49-cap international career was winning the African Nations Cup in 1996, as his side beat Tunisia 2-0 in the Final. Motaung had the rare distinction of appearing for South Africa's three biggest clubs – Kaizer Chiefs, Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns. He also played for Swiss side St Gallen and Spain's Tenerife.

Les Sealey, the former Manchester United goalkeeper, has died of a heart attack at the age of 43. Sealey won an FA Cup winners' medal with the Old Trafford side after replacing the dropped Jim Leighton for the 1990 Final replay against Crystal Palace. He retained his first-team place during the next season and was a member of the United side that beat Barcelona in the 1991 Cup-winners Cup Final.

Sadly missed...Moore

NOTES AND QUOTES

"I'm a humble person and all I want is to help Sporting win titles."
The summer's longest-running transfer saga comes to an end. Mario Jardel finally leaves Galatasaray for Sporting Lisbon.

"I've told the Danish federation what I want and now it's up to them to decide if it's acceptable."
Denmark boss Morten Olsen demands an 100 per cent wage rise.

Optimistic about 2006...Hoeness

"Our goal should not be the 2002 World Cup but the 2006 tournament, when I'm convinced we'll be world champions."
Bayern general manager Uli Hoeness, the man who said England had no chance of winning in Munich.

"In Spain we have a bad habit of treating young players from other countries like superstars while ignoring our own talent. Why is Saviola treated like a superstar when we've got players as talented as Vicente?"
Iker Casillas flies the flag for homegrown Spanish talent.

Keir Radnedge

COMMENTARY

Lennart fights on

UEFA chief stands again to head off Platini presidency

UEFA lost no time in describing Lennart Johansson's pride in offering himself for a further four-year term as president of the European governing body.

Exactly why the Swede felt it necessary to confirm his will to carry on in view of his ill health over the past 12 months remains uncertain. Johansson insists he has a hatful of projects still to deliver. Wider speculation suggests concern within the Nyon hierarchy over the prospect of a presidential bid by Michel Platini.

As we noted here last month, the Frenchman's accession to power within UEFA would have major consequences for the way the body is run and for its present personnel and power balance.

Johansson has presided over a massive turnaround in UEFA's role within the game. When he took over at the start of the last decade it was with the mission of reuniting Europe and bringing English clubs back in out of the cold following the post-Heysel exclusion. Hardly had Johansson achieved that than he was holding the reins of a massive membership and financial expansion.

'Johansson has no wish to rest on his laurels. He prefers to go on, leading European football into an uncertain future'

First came the collapse of the Soviet empire and the division of the former Yugoslavia. These two political eruptions were largely significant in hoicking UEFA membership up from 30-plus to the present 51 (52 If Kazakhstan's switch from Asia is confirmed by UEFA).

UEFA's challenge then was in finding the cash and resources to help bring so many of these new eastern federations up to administrative scratch.

Fortunately, that was when the second great event of Johansson's era occurred – the development of the Champions League.

Johansson, armed with more members and the commercial education provided by the Champions League, then dared to take on FIFA president Joao Havelange in Europe's name. Johansson failed, ultimately, to beat Sepp Blatter in the presidential race in 1998 but, if it had not been for Johansson's chutzpah in the first place, Havelange would not have felt it was time to stand down.

I think Johansson can be criticised only in one area and that was in underestimating the rise of the European Union and its executive arm, the European Commission. Johansson was a sports administrator of the old school, in a world where political and legal authorities had no role to play.

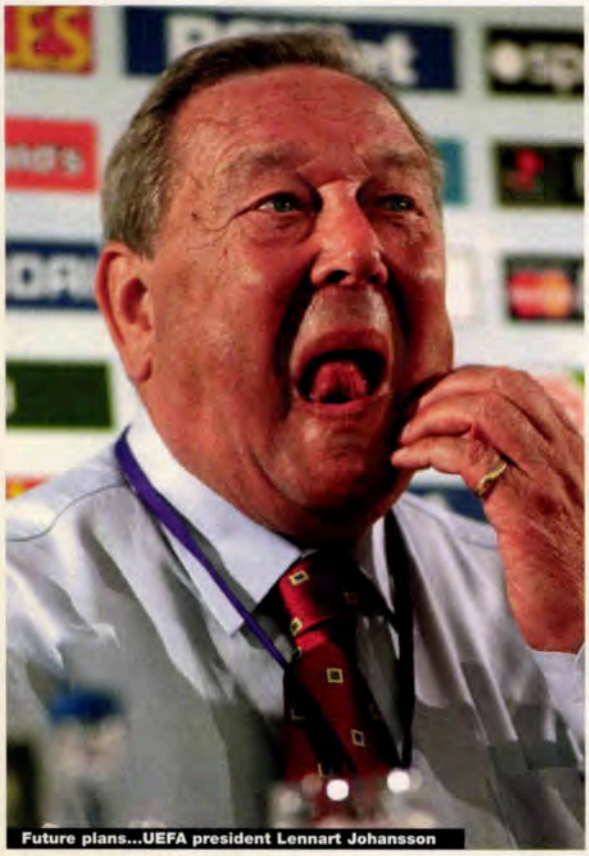
The trick that he and his Geneva advisers had missed was that they themselves had brought such powers into play by sweeping football into a new commercial world.

The irony is that UEFA's defeat in the European courts by Jean-Marc Bosman opened up the transfer market far beyond anything even Bosman and his lawyers had dreamed of. Europe is now, more than ever, the heart of the international soccer world.

Even Japan will have to tip its hat to European clubs to obtain the release of several star players when they co-host the World Cup finals next year.

With all that behind him, Johansson has no wish to rest on his laurels. He prefers to go on, leading European football into an uncertain future in which business considerations, TV ratings and European Commission involvement can only expand.

That may tell you something about the leadership potential around him. In the meantime, the nearest that Platini will come to power over the Champions League is as competition analyst for Canal Plus.



Future plans...UEFA president Lennart Johansson

UEFA cowers behind closed doors

UEFA's response to Rangers' appeal against having to play in Dagestan was cowardly in the extreme.

European football's governing body was happy to send players, officials, fans and media to the troubled southern Russian republic which borders war-torn Chechnya.

UEFA was not prepared, however, to say which brave officials – tucked away safely in their spanking new headquarters in Nyon – had taken the decision.

So much for transparency, Mr Johansson.

So much for accountability, Mr Aigner.

Makes all UEFA's posturing over FIFA's behaviour look pretty shallow, not to say insincere.

The case was a comparatively simple one. Rangers were advised by the British Foreign Office that it was unsafe to visit Dagestan to play Anzhi Makhachkala in the UEFA Cup. They also had problems raising insurance cover and asked UEFA to switch the tie to a safer venue.

UEFA refused. But who at UEFA refused? Who took the decision? No one dared own up.

A UEFA press spokesman, who refused to give his name, said: "The decision was taken by UEFA."

But who within UEFA? "The UEFA administration."

Does that mean Gerd Aigner? "It means exactly what I said."

Which means? "The UEFA administration."

Is anyone at UEFA prepared to take responsibility for the decision? "Yes, the UEFA administration."

Which committee or committees does that mean? "Not the committees. The administration."

Can you identify the responsible individuals? "No. There is no need for us to give you their names."

Oh yes, there is. You cannot lecture FIFA or anyone else about transparency, accountability and responsibility if you cannot provide them yourself.

New role...Romania coach Gheorghe Hagi

Hagi's new mission: find new Hagi

GHEORGHE HAGI may well be appearing at the World Cup finals next year – as national coach of Romania rather than playmaker. The play-offs will decide Romania's fate, it seems.

Only now has it come to light that Romanian football history might have taken a different route had Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax succeeded in their audacious bid to buy Hagi as a teenager.

President Gilbert Facchinetti was impressed with the young Hagi when Xamax played Sportul Studentesc. His opinion was vindicated in due course, though Xamax never benefited because of Romanian player export restrictions.

Hagi went on to inspire Steaua to reach the 1989 Champions Cup Final, led Romania to the latter stages of subsequent World Cups and bounced around clubs in Italy and Spain, where he played – albeit without great success – for Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Somehow Hagi managed to avoid being compromised by the Romanian regime. His greatest problem as national coach is easily assessed: there is no one quite like Hagi to take his own place.

Salary caps won't fit

EVERY now and again, some bright spark raises the potential of salary capping to keep top players' pay in check. Are there not already enough concerns about how many people dip their hands in transfer negotiations?

Two points come to mind immediately. First, formal salary capping is illegal; and Jimmy Hill and the English players' union proved the point in law more than 40 years ago.

Secondly, as wage freezes proved a decade later, such methods only encourage illicit, off-shore schemes. Issues such as sponsorship and image rights would provide clubs and players and agents with the ideal coach-and-horses to drive through any controls.

It was interesting to hear Johan Cruyff's views recently on the money game. Cruyff had no problem with mega fees for the likes of Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo. However, he thought the game suffered financially through the number of players valued at between £5m and £10m. "There are far too many of them," said Cruyff. "Something should be done."

Not by salary capping, anyway.

Important player...Posh Spice

Wives hold the key to player power

FOOTBALLERS' wives are now being seen to play a more important role in their husbands' careers. And that is not a reference to Victoria and David Beckham – Posh Spice's role has been less strident than some wives.

Bernd Schuster, Bodo Illgner and Tommy Hassler are three leading German players who have leaned on their wives' negotiating powers. When Zinedine Zidane ultimately left Juventus for Real Madrid no one was in any doubt that his Spanish wife, Veronique, was a decisive factor.

Same for Javi Moreno, who has taken on the awesome task of shoving aside either Andrii Shevchenko or Pippo Inzaghi if he wants a game in attack for Milan this season. It was his wife, Raquel, who encouraged him to quit Alaves for the Giuseppe Meazza.

Moreno says: "I had a number of offers this year from clubs in England and Spain, including Barcelona, where I had started my career. The prospect of 'revenge' in Barcelona was tempting. But my wife helped convince me that you should not go back in life but forwards and Milan was the better option. She's the one who signed me for Milan, really."

Yahoo's World Cup coup

FIFA has signed up its 15th and final sponsor for next year's World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan. That's Yahoo, which will provide the world governing body with "service and innovations in the various internet sectors for the next two World Cup finals".

President Sepp Blatter said: "Thanks to the partnership, fans across the whole world will now be able to follow the events in Korea and Japan online, and at any time of the day or night."

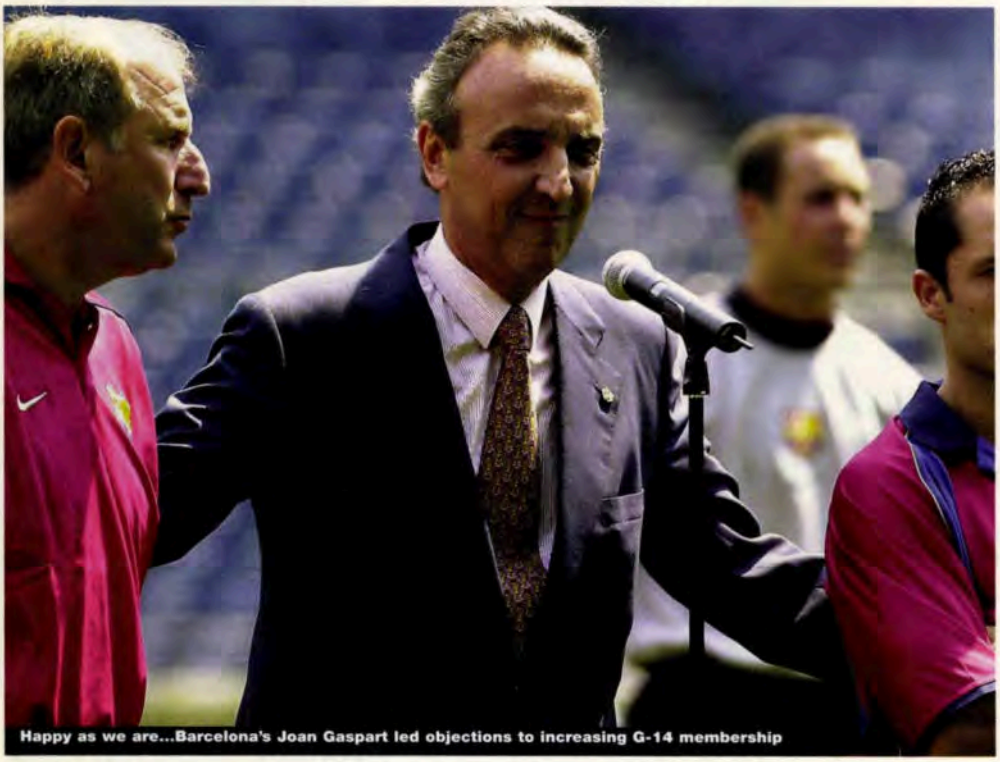
Good job, considering the early-day television times which will be necessary for live European audiences.

AOL has thus missed the boat. It will not even benefit from the pirate pleasure of seeing World Cup ties in 2006 in Germany staged in the re-named AOL stadium in Hamburg. By a neat negotiating trick, the stadium will revert to its old name – the Volksparkstadion – two months before the finals.

Re-named...Hamburg's AOL stadium

G-14 eyes commercial opportunities

Simon Banks on a new strategy for Europe's most influential clubs



Happy as we are...Barcelona's Joan Gaspart led objections to increasing G-14 membership

WHILE the draw for the first group stage of the Champions League was being conducted at Monte Carlo's Grimaldi Forum, representatives from Europe's top clubs were meeting up the hill at the luxurious Metropole Hotel under the guise of the G-14 group.

Just as the last time it met, in May, the group was deadlocked on the thorny issue of expansion. Objectors, led by Barcelona president Joan Gaspart, blocked the admission of more clubs for the time being. Chelsea, Rangers, Roma, Parma, Hertha Berlin, Celtic and Sporting Lisbon are all thought to have expressed an interest in joining.

The issue will be further discussed at the group's meeting in Paris in November, when a proposal to change G-14 statutes – so that only 75 per cent of the membership would need to vote in favour of admitting new clubs – would be put to the membership.

However, any change to the statutes would still require the backing of all 14 clubs, so further expansion looks unlikely for the foreseeable future. The group did agree, however, to consider ways of making money.

It is worth remembering G-14's objectives when it was originally constituted in 1999. Born out of the turmoil of the aborted Media Partners European Superleague plan, the group was formed to give 14 of Europe's top clubs a voice in the running of the European game commensurate with their status. It is fair to say that objective has, to a large extent, been realised, with the group being party to discussions with FIFA, UEFA, FIFpro and the European Commission on changes to the transfer system, and meeting governing bodies to offer input into the organisation and scheduling of competitions.

'Now the group has achieved its primary objective, it is mulling over ways of creating added value for its members'

The presence of Bayern Munich vice-president and G-14 management committee member Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on UEFA's club committee ensures a constant dialogue takes place between Europe's governing body and its top clubs. Having achieved its primary objective, the group is now mulling over ways of creating added value for members.

One possible money-spinner could be the playing of friendlies, perhaps in an organised tournament, between member clubs. This is more or less happening, anyway, with three of the four teams contesting this summer's Arena tournament in Amsterdam (Ajax, Liverpool and Barcelona) belonging to G-14.

Although the G-14 clubs will provide a significant number of the players involved in next summer's World Cup finals, there could still be enough G-14 players not involved for the group to send one or two representative teams on a tour of, say, the United States, either before or after the tournament.

When G-14 unveils its new corporate identity next month it is unlikely to herald a demand for branded G-14 merchandise, but it could lead to joint merchandising ventures, with clubs selling each other's replica kit etc in their stores.

The group is also looking at how it can jointly exploit rights that are not included in either European or domestic deals, such as delayed highlights and archive rights.

Developments in broadband and telephonic technology mean these rights could have an increasing value in time, and the combined economic size of the G-14 clubs, and their combined market share, suggests joint ventures would reduce costs while ensuring mass distribution.

Cynics may point to the inertia of the group over the expansion issue when questioning how such initiatives could get off the ground; if they can't agree about their membership, how can they agree on the joint marketing of commercial rights to a pre-season tournament?

However, there is a feeling within G-14 that commercial propositions can be presented on a take it or leave it basis; if clubs don't want to take part then they are free not to, but the G-14 statutes would not preclude other clubs from pushing ahead.

One G-14 representative told me that one of the best things about the group was simply that it got 14 of Europe's top clubs around the table regularly. That in itself was a considerable achievement and will lead to business being done between member clubs.

Whatever the future, it is clear G-14 will not go away now it has achieved its short-term objectives. While it is deadlocked over expansion, there are plenty of other issues where it feels it can progress.

G-14 WHO'S WHO

GERMANY
Bayern Munich
Borussia Dortmund

ENGLAND
Liverpool
Manchester United

FRANCE
Marseille
Paris Saint-Germain

PORTUGAL
FC Porto

ITALY
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Barcelona
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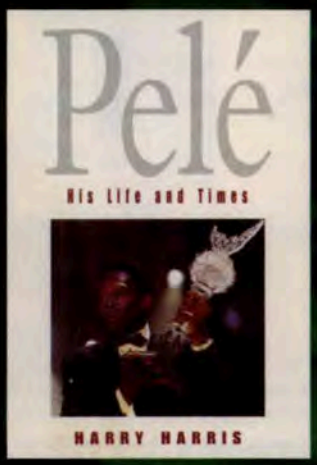

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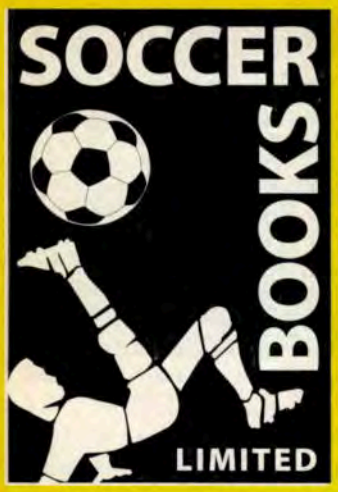

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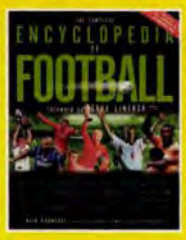

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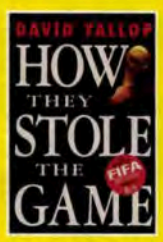

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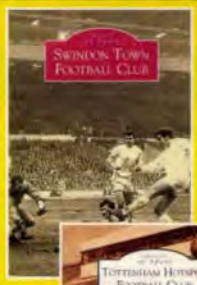

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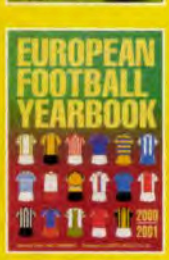

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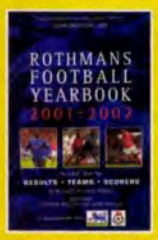

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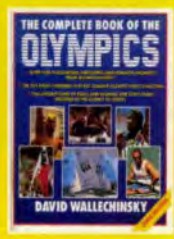

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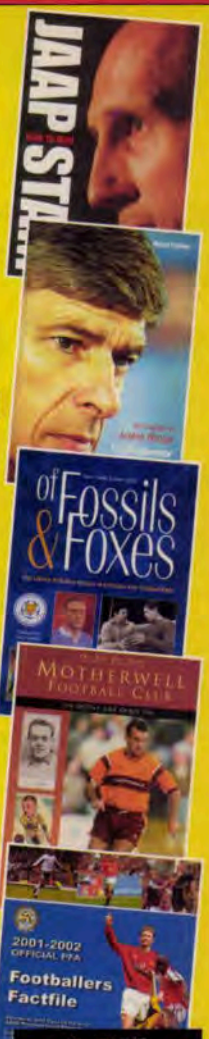

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The case for Crespo

Paddy Agnew on a striking dilemma facing Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa

IS IT possible that Gabriel 'Batigol' Batistuta might be reduced to the role of luxury substitute in Argentina's World Cup challenge at next summer's finals in South Korea and Japan? Can it be that the highest goalscorer in the history of the Argentinian national team, the man who last season played such a prominent role in Roma's Serie A title win, will struggle to find a team place for Argentina next summer?

As things stand, such a scenario is more probable than possible. Argentina, arguably the outstanding tournament favourites having qualified as runaway leaders of the South American qualifying group, can survive and maybe even win without Batigol.

Hernan Crespo, of course, represents the main reason for this remarkable state of affairs. Put simply, Crespo is one of the few strikers on the world scene today who can stand comparison with Batistuta, one of the few whom one might reasonably pick before Batistuta.

Speaking on the July day last year, when he found himself in the happy position of being able to replace the injured Batistuta with Crespo for a World Cup clash with Ecuador, Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa summed up his country's situation in one of the understatements of all time: "It is very unusual for a team to have so many quality players, so much depth. It's not common at all."

It is stating only the obvious to suggest that most national team coaches would dearly love to be able to call on the services of either Batistuta or Crespo, let alone the pair of them. Both are thoroughbred goalscoring machines whose instinctive penalty area craft has been refined on the cutting edge of Italy's Serie A, where Batistuta plays with Roma and Crespo with Lazio.

Both are players who leave their mark. Look at Batistuta's immense contribution to Fiorentina over the years, not to mention to Roma's title win; look also at Crespo's role in Parma's UEFA and Italian Cup double of three seasons ago.

Inevitably, the players have different talents. These days, Batistuta has added free-kick skills and a delicate touch to his sandblast finishing, while he remains a penalty area 'presence' that intimidates defenders. Crespo is undoubtedly quicker, with a greater tendency to drift out to the wings, even if he scores nearly all his goals from well inside the area.

Yet both players share an uncanny sixth sense that not only alerts them to a goal in the making but also allows them to steal that vital half yard on defenders by moving first in and around the area.

You might presume then that coach Bielsa would have been only too happy to use both men, alongside one another. Intriguingly and not without controversy, however, Bielsa seems to believe it is a case of either Batistuta or Crespo. Since Crespo replaced Batistuta for that win against Ecuador in July 2000, the Roma striker has played only once for Argentina, in their 2-1 World Cup qualifying win against Uruguay last October.

Given Argentina's dominance of the South American qualifiers, Bielsa's reluctance to change a winning formula is at least understandable.

Speaking on the eve of Argentina's 2-1 World Cup home win against arch-rivals Brazil in early September, Bielsa touched on the Crespo-Batistuta debate by admitting that he found it difficult to change a team line-up that had ensured Argentina's qualification for South Korea and Japan way ahead of time.

"The decisions I take are made considering what I believe to be best for the next game," he said. "I have not ruled out [recalling Batistuta] but it is difficult to find a satisfactory end to this controversy. Perhaps if I had picked Batistuta for this game, I would now be sitting here asking why I was going to change a system that worked."

In truth, Bielsa has more reasons that just the old management adage of 'never-change-a-winning-team' to explain his seeming reluctance to find space for Batigol. For a start, there is the age factor. Batistuta will be 33 next February, while Crespo was 26 in July of this year.

The age factor explains why, when both players moved clubs in the summer of 2000, Crespo (from Parma to Lazio) was valued at £36million and Batistuta (from Fiorentina to Roma) at £22m. Crespo is the player for the future while Batistuta is coming to the end of his career, albeit one of the most dazzling ever seen even in the demanding environs of Serie A.

There is, too, a tactical consideration for playing either one or the other. Namely, that both tend to function best as central strikers and as obvious target men around whom the attack gravitates. Both are used to best effect when partnered with players able to get down the flank and lay on the frontline supplies. Marco Delvecchio performed this role for Batistuta for much of last season with Roma, while

Brazil still struggling after Argentina defeat

BRAZIL coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was on form before and after his team's 2-1 World Cup qualifying defeat by Argentina, a result that once again has left them struggling to make next year's tournament.

Before the game, 'Big Phil' admitted that a draw would be an excellent result, a comment that amounts to blasphemy when coming from the mouth of Brazil' coach. And, just as he did when in charge of Palmeiras and Gremio, he urged his players to foul the opposition.

"If Argentina offered me a draw, I would sign here and now," said Scolari before the game, amid general incredulity. "If we could have done the deal over the telephone, we wouldn't have needed to come at all."

Afterwards, Scolari's chief complaint was that Brazil – who led from the third to the 77th minute before succumbing to late goals from Marcelo Gallardo and Ariel Ortega – had not done enough time-wasting.

"When one player falls down [feigning injury], another three have to deal with him. We might get the odd yellow card, but that doesn't matter."

In typical Scolari style, there were no apologies for his attitude. "Who plays attractive football today? Holland? Germany?," he asked, referring to two teams who had World Cup fiascos the same week. "There's no more Beautiful Game. You're not going to see the Brazil of 1958, 1962 and 1970 again. We are in 2001."

During the match, Scolari packed his team with destroyers fielding three central defenders, two full-backs and two more tackling specialists in midfield, fielding a 3-5-2 formation that actually looked more like 7-2-1.

Brazil's style infuriated the critics, who lambasted Scolari's tactics as cowardly and caused his popularity to take a sharp plunge.

The four-times world champions are still clinging to the fourth and final automatic South American berth after the loss and should still qualify. But this is more to do with the fact that their direct rivals, Ecuador, Uruguay and Colombia, meet in upcoming matches than with their own capabilities.

Paraguay moved closer to securing qualification for next year's finals when they thrashed Bolivia 5-1, with goals from Carlos Paredes, Jose Cardozo (two), Roque Santa Cruz and a free-kick from keeper Jose Chilavert.

Uruguay kept up the pressure on Brazil after winning 2-0 in Peru with first-half goals from Dario Silva and Alvaro Recoba.

Brian Homewood

Claudio Lopez fulfils the same role for Crespo for both Lazio and Argentina.

Footballing wisdom has always held that good players can play together, no matter what their characteristics. Perhaps one day soon, before the South Korea and Japan finals, coach Bielsa will take courage and test that theory by playing Crespo and Batistuta in the same team.

Speculation about Crespo's rivalry with Batistuta is nothing new to the Lazio man. Speaking after that dramatic 2-1 win against Brazil – a game for which Batigol had not even been called into the squad – Crespo told Rome sports daily *Corriere Dello Sport*: "I have been living with this pressure ever since I started playing for the national team, back in 1995. Nowadays, things are even worse since we both play for the opposing teams in Rome. But we both go about our own business and I certainly don't mind the rivalry.

"What is true is that it would be very difficult for us both to play for Argentina. Both of us can only play as the single central target man stuck there in front. This is a situation that will probably resolve itself for the World Cup finals, or perhaps again, it won't."

As the scorer of 17 goals in 33 games for Argentina, Crespo may be some long way off Batistuta's remarkable haul of 54 goals for his country, yet he has no intention of stepping down to make way for his older rival. "If I didn't think myself to be the first choice," he said, "I wouldn't even turn up for the national team. I absolutely want to defend what I've achieved; I believe that I'm currently playing the best football of my life. I have nothing personal against Batistuta but, frankly, at this stage I don't think I've got to prove anything to anyone."

Given the sort of real-politik considerations that inevitably dominate a coach's thinking, however, we suspect that when it comes to the World Cup finals next summer, Bielsa will settle for just one man, for Hernan Crespo.

Bielsa himself indicated as much when saying in September: "When you make decisions, you opt for one option and abandon another."

Goal machine...Crespo is top scorer for Argentina, the runaway leaders of the South American section

Poland, Spain and Sweden join the party

Gavin Hamilton on the latest winners and losers in the European qualifiers

POLAND, Spain and Sweden have all sealed their places in next year's World Cup finals, while Russia, Portugal, Denmark, Belgium, Italy and England look set to join them.

England's astonishing 5-1 victory over Germany in Munich was the most eye-catching result of the latest round of European qualifiers. But just as significant was Holland's defeat by the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. Followed a few days later by Portugal's 3-1 win in Cyprus, it means that Holland will miss their first major tournament since 1986.

Russia remain on top of Group 1 and on course for automatic qualification despite a 2-1 defeat to nearest rivals Slovenia. The match ended in controversy after English referee Graham Poll awarded the Slovenians a penalty with one minute remaining. Milenko Acimovic converted the spot-kick to leave the group wide open. Yugoslavia, 2-1 winners in Switzerland, closed the gap behind Slovenia and Russia to one and two points respectively.

Four days later, Russia comfortably beat the Faroe Islands 3-0, with Vladimir Beschastnykh getting two of the goals, while Slovenia and Yugoslavia played out a 1-1 draw in Belgrade. The result effectively ended Yugoslavia's qualification hopes. Russia need only a point at home to Switzerland next month to be assured of top spot, while Slovenia will claim the play-off place if they beat the Faroe Islands at home.

Portugal will confirm their automatic qualification as winners of Group 2 if they beat Estonia at home next month. Portuguese victories over Andorra (7-1) and Cyprus (3-1) boosted their goal difference and took them above the Republic of Ireland in the group.

Cyprus threatened an upset after Michalis Constantinou gave his side the lead in Larnaca. But Portugal recovered, and scored through Nuno Gomes, Pauleta and Sergio Conceicao.

Holland now languish in third spot after their defeat by the Irish in Dublin. Jason McAteer scored the only goal of the game after the Republic's Gary Kelly had been sent off. Early misses by Patrick Kluivert and Ruud Van Nistelrooy were to prove costly for the Dutch.

Afterwards, Holland coach Louis Van Gaal vowed to fight on, saying: "I have every intention of staying and respecting my contract, which lasts until 2004." However, he later said: "If I conclude from the evaluation that this failure is my fault then I will have to leave."

In Group 3, Denmark, are in pole position after beating Bulgaria 2-0 in heavy conditions in Sofia. The Bulgarians could have secured automatic qualification if they had won, so close is this group, but two goals from Jon Dahl Tomasson, in the 49th and 88th minutes, sent Denmark two points clear.

The Czech Republic, who qualified for Euro 2000 with a 100 per cent record, suffered a major setback when they were beaten 3-1 by Iceland. Four days later in Teplice, the Czechs struggled to overcome Malta, who equalised twice before going down 3-2. Substitute Milan Baros scored the winner in the 68th minute, a minute after replacing Pavel Kuka.

To secure a play-off place, the Czechs must now avoid defeat in their final match, at home to Bulgaria.

Sweden secured their place in the finals with a dramatic 2-1 win over Turkey in Istanbul which took them five points clear in Group 4.

The Turks dominated for most of the match and took the lead through Hakan Sukur early in the second half. But they failed to add to their lead, and Henrik Larsson equalised in the 88th minute.

Then two minutes later, Andreas Andersson latched on to a long ball pumped into the penalty area to score a dramatic winner.

The Turks are assured of a play-off place, and will face Austria or Israel.

Poland confirmed their qualification as winners of Group 5 with a 3-0 defeat of Norway. It will be their first appearance at a major finals since 1986.

Emmanuel Olisadebe, the Nigeria-born striker who is Poland's leading scorer in the qualifiers, enhanced his growing reputation with another goal.

Happy huddle...Sweden's Magnus Hedman

"Today's match is a turning point. The start of a new era in Polish football," coach Jerzy Engel said afterwards. "We all live for moments like this."

Former star Zbigniew Boniek, now a Polish FA vice-president, was quick to pay tribute to Engel. "You mustn't change for the sake of changing," he said. "On the contrary, you must base your game on natural characteristics, which Engel has understood perfectly.

"For the first time for years, today's Poland is a solid side of a good European standard. The team are well organised in defence, they're a hard team to undo. They score a good number of goals with an effective counter-attacking game, which has always been our speciality."

Ukraine are the favourites to secure the play-off berth behind Poland after a 2-0 win in Belarus. Valerii Lobanovskyi's side must now win in Poland in their final game, a task that is not as hard as it sounds: third-placed Belarus took advantage of Poland's qualification to beat the group winners 4-1 in Minsk in their penultimate game.

In Group 6 Belgium remain in first place, but could yet be caught by Croatia. Both teams virtually ended the Scots' chances of reaching the finals. Croatia drew 0-0 in Glasgow, while Belgium ran out 2-0 winners in Brussels, with goals from Niko Van Kerckhoven and Bart Goor. The top two meet in Croatia next month, with

Letting fly...Poland's Tomasz Klos goes for goal; Norway's Iversen trails in his wake

o join in the qualification celebrations

the Belgians needing only a point to ensure automatic qualification.

Spain are already assured of their place in the finals after winning Group 7 with a game to spare. Real Madrid striker Fernando Morientes marked his return to fitness with two goals in the 4-0 win at home to Austria. Four days later, the Spanish completed their qualifying programme with a 2-0 win in Liechtenstein. Raul opened the scoring in the 17th minute, while veteran defender Miguel Angel Nadal headed in a Gaizka Mendieta free-kick in the 83rd minute.

Austria need a point from their final game in Israel to take the play-off spot.

Italy missed their chance to seal automatic qualification as winners of Group 8 after they could only draw 0-0 in Lithuania. Giovanni Trapattoni's side must now wait until next month to complete their passage to the finals.

Romania are assured of the play-off place after beating Hungary in Budapest. Playing their first game under new coach Gheorghe Hagi, the Romanians won 2-0 with first-half goals from Adrian Ilie and Marius Niculae.

In Group 9, England's dramatic win in Munich, followed by their 2-0 home victory over Albania, has taken them to the top of the group, ahead of Germany on goal difference. This represents a stunning transformation in their fortunes under coach Sven Goran Eriksson. When the Swede took over earlier this year, England were bottom of the group.

I'm through...Juan Valeron gets past Herzog of Austria during Spain's 4-0 win

Flying high...Michael Owen's hat-trick against Germany showed he was bang in form

Owen's star shines brightly

England's golden boy is back to his best, says Gavin Hamilton

IN the build-up to England's astonishing victory over Germany in Munich, a throwaway comment from Michael Owen gave an interesting insight into the Liverpool player's psyche.

"When Emile [Heskey] arrived at Liverpool," Owen said when talking about his striking partner, "he was young and needed time to settle in."

In fact, at the time of his transfer to Liverpool in March 2000, Heskey was 22 years and two months – five and a half months older than Owen when he scored his remarkable hat-trick against Germany in the Olympiastadion.

That Owen is an old head on young shoulders has been known for some time. In Munich, he also confirmed his reputation as a world-class finisher. He cut through a dispirited defence to complete his hat-trick in 66 minutes. Shades of 1966 and all that. Not to mention Owen's goal against Argentina at France 98.

It is easy to forget, then, that six months ago a dispirited Owen sat on the bench as Liverpool laboured to a narrow victory over Birmingham in the League Cup Final in Cardiff. His unhappiness was plain for all to see, a result of his struggles against a hamstring injury and Gerard Houllier's rotation policy at Liverpool.

Since then, Owen's performances – goals against Roma in the UEFA Cup, Arsenal in the FA Cup Final, Bayern Munich in the European Supercup, and the hat-trick against Germany in Munich – have been among the very best in Europe.

He attributes his new-found sharpness to a rare summer break, his first in six years. "Before, I have been involved in World Youth Cups, World Cups and European Championships. Then there was the summer I spent getting fit after tearing my hamstring. I got just under three weeks this year, which is still not enough, but I felt much better. I feel sharp."

The chief beneficiary of Owen's sharpness has been England coach Sven Goran Eriksson. Unlike his predecessor, Kevin Keegan, who built his side around Alan Shearer, often using Owen as a substitute, Eriksson has been quick to recognise Owen's talents.

"Michael Owen is very special," Eriksson says. "He's a good footballer with excellent technique but he has two things that are difficult to find in a player. He's very cold when he gets a chance and he's very quick. If you have that combination, it's a killer."

The same killer instincts, in fact, that enabled Ronaldo to burst upon the European scene in 1996, ending the year with an array of accolades. Five years on, for Ronaldo, read Owen, perhaps?

It is hard to find a better candidate for the 2001 European Footballer of the Year award. The three most recent winners of the *Ballon d'Or* – Zinedine Zidane, Rivaldo and Luis Figo – have been good but not outstanding over the past year. At European champions Bayern Munich, the stock of Oliver Kahn has tumbled, not least because of his encounters with Owen in the red of Liverpool and the white of England.

An Englishman has not won the award since Keegan in 1979. But such is the growing regard for English football – and Owen and Liverpool in particular – that that may be about to change.

Whatever happened to the German superiority complex?

Brian Glanville on the significance of England's win

THAT soccer is a game of surprises, even shocks, has long been known. The USA beating the might of England in Belo Horizonte in the 1950 World Cup; North Korea knocking out Italy at Middlesbrough in the 1966 version; and now Germany 1 England 5. Total euphoria, justifiable optimism. But how much does it really mean?

The captain, David Beckham, has wisely called for feet to be kept on the ground. For, once the euphoria has diminished, one needs to analyse just what did happen in this remarkable game in Munich and, by extension, what it meant in terms of the World Cup.

Football games, as we know, turn on incidents; except in cases where the teams are hopelessly ill-matched. This may well have seemed the case by the time the match in Munich was over, but you would not have thought so beforehand, nor when Carsten Jancker took advantage of sloppy defending to put the Germans in the lead.

Indeed, Germany should have scored again when Sebastian Deisler missed that easy chance. In the event, England scored an equaliser, a tribute to their resilience, and went ahead at that most delicate moment, just before half-time. Then, almost as soon as the second half began, they went even further ahead.

The three-man German defence of Christian Worns, Jens Nowotny and Thomas Linke had already shown signs of vulnerability, particularly to the pace of an inspired Michael Owen. Oliver Kahn, purportedly the best goalkeeper in the world, on occasion had looked anything but. Yet a psychological surrender was the last thing one would have expected from a German team.

Germany have not been a major force for several years now; not really since their victory in Euro 96. They were very lucky to scrape by a superior Mexican team at France 98, and were taken to the cleaners by Croatia in the quarter-finals.

Berti Vogts, the much put-upon manager, publicly deplored the lack of burgeoning young players, and it remains true. Few indeed have emerged, though Deisler is one of them; Sebastian Kehl, who came on only after 78 minutes and should probably, in retrospect, have started, is another.

But the embarrassing truth is that long before the end, the Germans had thrown in the towel. Worns was taken off to spare him further punishment, and Nowotny looked clumsy and inept. Yet what if David Seaman, who had only just put hearts in mouths by failing to collect what seemed a simple cross, hadn't made that glorious save from Bohme, just before the English went ahead?

Taking the Michael...Owen scores his third at the Olympiastadion

On such occurrences do football matches turn. We know now that a German team once marshalled and inspired by the likes of Franz Beckenbauer and Lothar Matthaus is mentally fragile to a bizarre degree.

Meanwhile, there are still doubts and fears about England's central defensive pairing of Rio Ferdinand and Sol Campbell, and about the defensive abilities of young Ashley Cole, who by his own admission was run ragged in the recent friendly at Tottenham by Holland's Boudewijn Zenden.

Go back to the 1954 World Cup. The Germans went into the Final against Hungary seemingly without a prayer after they had lost 8-3 to the same opponents in the early stages of the tournament, although admittedly this wasn't a full German team.

But who won the Final? Why, Germany 3-2, after going 2-0 behind. No sign then in skipper Fritz Walter's team of a collapse of morale.

On to 1970, the quarter-final in Leon, Germany recovered to beat England 3-2, having been 2-0 down. What's happened in the intervening years?

Oliver's alibi

For once, Oliver Bierhoff is not to blame for Germany's failure, says Keir Radnedge

OLIVER BIERHOFF was, for once, spared a heap of abuse after Germany's defeat by England in Munich. The man who has become a favoured target for aggrieved fans did not leave the bench in the Olympic Stadium, and can now focus on a new life down on the French Riviera.

Bierhoff is new centre-forward and captain of Monaco – back in a world in which he has always been at his most effective, chasing goals on behalf of a provincial club in front of small crowds.

"I have seen us play very much better," was his laconic comment on the Munich upset. Certainly Bierhoff has not lost hope of returning to national duty one day and the World Cup flop may only have inspired him.

Considering that the veteran German centre-forward had the option of moving to England when his time ran out at Milan during the summer, the choice of Monaco may appear the short straw. But Bierhoff wanted a new start in a new football environment.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the man who won the European Championship for his nation in dramatic fashion in 1996 has never been one of German football's favoured sons.

Bierhoff took much of the blame for the quarter-final 'failure' at the 1998 World Cup and then the first round exit at Euro 2000.

He shouldered unnecessary extra blame because he was considered a favoured son of successive coaches Berti Vogts and Erich Ribbeck.

Bierhoff's middle-class background and his insistence on continuing a study course from the German Open University also set him apart from the rest of the squad. His greatest crime, however, was that he had never starred in the Bundesliga with one of the giants such as Bayern Munich or Borussia Dortmund.

He did play in the Bundesliga, with Bayer Uerdingen, Hamburg and Borussia Monchengladbach, but he spent more time on the bench than on the pitch at all three clubs. It took a goal-laden season in Austria with Casino Salzburg to kick-start his career.

Italian agents sat up and took notice and soon Bierhoff was winging his way south. The giants of Turin, Milan and Rome were not interested but Bierhoff was delighted to sign for struggling Ascoli and be a big fish in a small pond. His success attracted Udinese, where Bierhoff, under the guidance of coach Alberto Zaccheroni, took Serie A by storm. Simultaneously, he earned a high international profile with his exploits at Euro 96.

Coach Vogts had brought tall and not-so-quick Bierhoff to England more to make up the numbers. But in the Final, as substitute, Bierhoff scored the equaliser against the Czech Republic at Wembley and then the golden goal winner.

The following autumn, in the World Cup qualifiers, he repeated the substitute's trick by cracking a hat-trick in seven minutes against Northern Ireland and rescuing victory from a potential 1-0 defeat. In 1997-98 Bierhoff was Serie A's 27-goal top scorer. Inevitably, both Bierhoff and Zaccheroni were whisked away to Milan and more glory followed when they snatched the 1999 Italian title from under the noses of Lazio on the last day.

However, the succeeding two years proved anti-climactic for the man who had now been elevated to captain of Germany. Bierhoff ran into a trough of poor form and then a series of niggling

The inquest begins

Nick Bidwell on Germany's reaction to the 5-1 defeat by England

SO MUCH for those silly season stories of a German plot to accommodate England in a hotel close to the raucous Hofbrauhaus beer hall before the countries' vital World Cup showdown in Munich.

The only people having sleepless nights are the Germans following their 5-1 drubbing by Sven Goran Eriksson's wide-awake side.

Germany are not used to such affronts. Their only previous defeat in a World Cup eliminator, a 1-0 loss to Portugal in Stuttgart in October 1985, had been academic as the *Nationalmannschaft* had already qualified for Mexico.

By contrast, the Munich 'Klassiker' was a high-stakes encounter. After coming a poor second-best to England, the Germans are now resigned to the fact that they must play-off for a World Cup finals berth against the Ukraine or Belarus.

"I can't see England dropping any more points," muttered keeper and skipper Oliver Kahn. "Realistically, we have lost out on first place and will have to go into the play-offs. We just could not defend against the English pressure. Normally, losing to England – even at home – would be no disgrace. But this defeat will leave a scar. On a personal level, I expect considerably more from myself. Their first goal must be down to me.

"Nonetheless I'm sure we'll still qualify. It's no good thinking that everything is black. In the wake of this catastrophe, we have to make sure we don't make the same mistakes again."

What an awful Bavarian night for Germany boss Rudi Voller. Not only had his team handed over the initiative in Group 9 to England and suffered the second-heaviest home defeat in national team history – the worst was a 6-0 loss against Austria in Berlin in 1931. He also had to rush to the bedside of his father Kurt, who had a heart attack while watching the game at the Olympiastadion.

All the same, Voller insists the Munich defeat will not force him to rip up his blueprint for the national team. "It's not the time to panic or call everything into question that seemed in order four weeks ago," Voller said.

"It was a dark day for us. At first I was pleased with the performance. We quickly took the lead, put together some decent attacking moves and Deisler and Bohme missed good chances to put us 2-1 up. England's two goals just before and after the break were a massive blow. They fully deserved their win, but they were not four goals better than us. They had a dream day, whereas nothing went right for us.

"On October 6 against Finland we have a chance to make up for this painful defeat. If England win the group, we're optimistic we can qualify through the play-offs."

Yet the failings of Voller's side against England were plain for all to see. Kahn looked anything but the keeper touted as the best in Europe; the back three of Christian Worns (Marko Rehmer in the second half), Jens Nowotny and Thomas Linke were woefully short of speed and organisation; the three wing-backs used – Rehmer, Jorg Bohme and Gerald Asamoah – looked out of their depth; and the much-hyped midfield superstars, Sebastian Deisler and Michael Ballack, sank without trace. The only crumb of comfort was the typically battling performance from goalscorer Carsten Jancker.

Inevitably in such depressing circumstances, ex-Germany stars queued up to twist the knife. Uwe Seeler thought the team lacked bite, adding that "we made our opponents look good"; Karl-Heinz Rummenigge revealed his surprise at how quickly Germany gave up; while Gunter Netzer, famous for his leading role in the 3-1 European Championship win at Wembley in 1972, was his usual forthright self. "This defeat hurts a lot," Netzer declared. "What particularly worries me is the defence and that we have no one to command that unit."

The last word goes to Worns, who found Michael Owen's pace too hot to handle. "It was the most bitter defeat I've ever had with Germany," he said. "After going one-nil up, we got everything wrong. We returned to Stone Age football."

injuries as both Milan and the German national team hit hard times.

Last season, with both club and country, Bierhoff was back in the old routine, spending more time off the pitch than on it.

Milan switched coaches this summer. Zaccheroni was long gone and Turkish manager Fatih Terim took over. The simultaneous signings of strikers such as Filippo Inzaghi from Juventus and Javi Moreno from Alaves left no room for Bierhoff.

While Germany were collapsing to that 5-1 home defeat by England, Bierhoff watched from the sidelines. In the post-match conference, the forward filled in for coach Rudi Voller, who had rushed to his sick father's hospital bedside. The former Germany captain admitted his frustration about not featuring in the match.

"Voller had told me to be prepared, so I expected to come on before the others [Miroslav Klose and Sebastian Kehl]," he said. "I am disappointed about the result and annoyed about not having played at all. With coaches Voller and Michael Skibbe, we have always been on the sunny side. But now we have to get through the dark side. The coaches and team have to hold together and concentrate on the match against Finland."

In the meantime, Bierhoff can make a new start in French football with Monaco. The 1999 champions struggled last season and in the early weeks of this new campaign under rookie coach Didier Deschamps.

The former Chelsea midfielder and World Cup-winning captain recognised an urgent need for experience and goals. Who better in an emergency than Bierhoff? "Oliver may be 33 but he is still a great professional; he's hard to mark and he's good in the air," said Deschamps after Bierhoff had marked his debut with the second goal in a 2-0 defeat of Troyes – Monaco's first League win of the season.

Deschamps added: "Also, Oliver has the incentive of trying to regain a national team place in time for the World Cup finals at the end of the season."

If Germany qualify, that is.

Back in the frame?...Bierhoff hopes that his move to Monaco will revive his national team chances

Oranje fail to blossom

Simon Kuper on the reaction as arrogant Holland pay the price

THOSE of us who grew up in Holland at the wrong time spent a fair part of our adolescence crying in front of the TV as the country kept missing out on World Cups.

There was the night of November 18, 1981, when Ruud Krol and Hans Van Breukelen stood staring at each other on the goal-line of Parc des Princes as Michel Platini's free-kick sailed between them.

Then came November 20, 1985, when with five minutes left before we finally reached a World Cup, a young, unmarked Belgian named Georges Grun headed us out of it. I can still see Ruud Gullit kicking the ball angrily into the net, probably convinced he would always remain a strictly local hero.

Two and a half years later, he and Holland were European champions.

However, those defeats weren't half as shameful as the 1-0 loss to the Republic of Ireland on September 1, which put Holland out of the 2002 World Cup.

In 1981 Holland lost because the great generation of the 1970s had grown old. In 1985 it was because Gullit and co weren't ready yet, while the 'missing generation' born in the late 1950s never would be. Moreover, in those days a mere 24 nations qualified for the World Cup.

At Lansdowne Road, however, there was no excuse. A good generation was at its peak, the Dutch style (the attacking passing game with two wingers) so fixed that even Graham Taylor wouldn't be able to change it, and with a World Cup of 32 nations any old idiot can qualify. This time Holland lost because of human error after human error.

You don't lose a World Cup in just one match. That the *Oranje* went to Dublin needing to win in the first place was due to arrogance and Portugal.

Arrogance, because after Euro 2000 Holland had taken to assuming that turning up would generally ensure victory. The Dutch tend to view football as a sort of dry synchronised swimming, a sport in which points are awarded on aesthetic grounds. That wasn't going to work against the excellent Portuguese.

Holland could still easily have got the three points in Dublin. In the first 20 minutes they were brilliant, creating a cavalcade of chances, reminding us that much the same players had got within a couple of penalty kicks of the Final of the last European Championship and World Cup.

Then Arthur Numan was carried off with a head injury. For several minutes Holland played with 10 men, and they chose to waste time, the keeper and defenders passing the ball among each other. The battered Irish were delighted to let this happen. When Numan returned, Holland's rhythm had gone. The game had entered its last half hour, they hadn't yet scored, and they began to worry. On the bench, coach Louis Van Gaal panicked.

The Dutch press has been unanimous in condemning his crazy substitutions. With Holland still needing a goal, Van Gaal replaced wingers Marc Overmars and Boudewijn Zenden with centre-forwards Pierre Van Hooijdonk and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. "Powerlessness coupled with stress probably prevented this experienced coach from thinking and acting rationally," commented the usually buttoned-up daily *NRC Handelsblad*.

Fielding four centre-forwards and no wingers was a tactic last tried by Germany against Croatia in the World Cup quarter-final of 1998. It didn't work then. Ireland took the lead through Jason McAteer and Holland, playing for the last half hour against 10 Irishmen after Gary Kelly was sent off, ended up pumping long balls forward in a cruel parody of an Irish team of the Dark Ages.

Van Gaal half-realised what had gone wrong. "We used the long ball too much," he told the media. He said that his players hadn't listened to him. It's a shame there wasn't an eight-year-old on hand to tell him that with four centre-forwards and no wingers the long ball is what you get.

Beginning of the end...McAteer leaps with

The influential weekly magazine *Voetbal International* ran a front cover that screamed: "Louis Van Gaal: Without Credibility."

It wasn't only his fault. "Everything starts with fighting spirit and Holland had too little of that," said the Heerenveen manager Foppe De Haan. Most Dutch commentators agreed. Van Gaal blamed Holland's apathy on the country's "culture and wealth", claiming that Spanish, Irish and German players were feistier. (Many Dutch people labour under the delusion that their country is extraordinarily rich.)

There is a more likely explanation. The reason the Dutch looked so apathetic against Ireland is that some of them subconsciously did not want to make the World Cup. Many of these players were at Euro 96, the French World Cup and Euro 2000. They must have marvelled at the naivety of the Irish, who seemed genuinely to want to spend five weeks locked in a camp in a country with incomprehensible television before being knocked out on penalties and spending the next months nursing the hangover plus injuries.

The Dutch have had enough for a while. What do you give the footballer who has everything? A summer holiday. Two months off in 2002 could renew their interest in football.

The Dutch public was philosophical in defeat. A poll commissioned after the game showed that two-thirds of

Cancel the party...Dutch fans can't believe their side are out of the World Cup

after scoring the goal that beat Holland

the population thought Van Gaal should stay as manager. The newspapers, though chastising him, mostly avoided the 'He Must Go' headlines so beloved in England and Germany. The Dutch public has a habit of placing surprising faith in its leaders: the Dutch Prime Minister, whoever he is, usually has widespread support too.

Furthermore, there is no obvious alternative to Van Gaal. Johan Cruyff has effectively retired from coaching (though nobody outside Holland seems to realise this), Gullit is not very popular at home, while Guus Hiddink, Frank Rijkaard and Dick Advocaat have already had a go.

Van Gaal has published an open letter to the public on his website homepage. "We're now starting to turn the view to 2004," it says, before asking the fans "to give the players a fair chance". Translated, this means "to give me a fair chance". It looks like he will get it. He deserves it, too: in 10 years with Ajax and Barcelona he proved himself an excellent manager.

On taking the Dutch job last year, Van Gaal was asked what his aim was. "To become world champion," he said. This will not happen. Philip Cocu, the De Boer twins, Jaap Stam, Overmars and Edwin Van der Sar will struggle to make Euro 2004, let alone the 2006 World Cup. There is no wave of talent arriving to replace them.

To any Dutch football fan just entering adolescence, my advice is to seek your thrills elsewhere.

What's gone wrong?...Ruud Van Nistelrooy contemplates another no-show for the Dutch on the world stage

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

On a knife edge

Costa Rica have qualified, but only two from Mexico, Honduras and USA will join them. Paul Gardner reports

WHEN the final round of CONCACAF's World Cup qualifying tournament started back in February, it looked like it would be a real dog fight.

All six teams seemed to be in with a chance to claim one of the three finals berths, although the odds were that it would end up being business as usual: i.e. Mexico, USA and Costa Rica to qualify, with Honduras, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago eliminated.

Almost. Eight months later, with each team having only two games (out of 10) to play, the position is: Costa Rica already qualified, T&T eliminated, Jamaica virtually eliminated. Suddenly the hexagonal is a triangular, with three teams – Honduras (14 points), Mexico (13) and USA (13) scrapping for two qualifying slots.

So Costa Rica will appear in their second World Cup. At Italia 90 they surprised the world by beating both Scotland and Sweden and advancing to the second round. There can be no questioning Costa Rica's triumph as the region's leading team.

Their only loss came in the USA, where they were beaten 1-0 by a goal that involved a flagrant hand-ball, somehow not noticed by Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrionda.

The USA started their campaign like a house on fire, with four wins and a draw in their first five games (including a home victory over Mexico and an away win in Honduras) and seemed a shoo-in.

The Mexicans were on the opposite track: playing badly and winning only one of their first five. During that spell, Costa Rica had beaten them 2-1 in the Azteca – Mexico's first ever World Cup loss there.

When the all-conquering Americans rolled into the Azteca, it was crunch time for Mexico – another loss and they were almost certainly out. But with new coach Javier Aguirre at the helm they squeaked a 1-0 win thanks to a superbly headed goal from Jared Borgetti, and the victory marked the beginning of their revival.

Next up for Mexico was a visit to Jamaica – where the Reggae Boyz had a 51-game unbeaten run. Their record looked set to continue when they led 1-0 with only 22 minutes remaining. The stage was set for the spectacular return to action of Mexico's top player, Cuauhtemoc Blanco. His goals in the 68th and 76th minute gave Mexico the victory.

Blanco had been out of action since October 2000 with a serious knee injury, caused by a brutal 'tackle' by Trinidad & Tobago's Ansil Elcock. It was a foul shown over and over on Mexican television, a foul so bad that when Trinidad & Tobago visited Azteca (and lost 3-0) coach Rene Simoes deliberately left Elcock at home to avoid any incidents.

As the Mexicans, buoyed by the inspirational Blanco, grew stronger, the Americans suddenly crumbled. The loss in Mexico City was followed by two more defeats: 3-2 at home to Honduras, and 2-0 in Costa Rica.

The results themselves were bad enough, but the performances were even worse. Honduras ran rings round the US defence in Washington DC, and could easily have had three more goals had Carlos Pavon not been in uncharacteristically feeble finishing form.

The vaunted US defence had conceded only two goals in their previous five games. Now it looked like a shambles. After the game, coach Bruce Arena came up with a classic quote: "Without being critical of any particular player, I think David Regis broke down – he had breakdowns that led to every goal."

Nor were the USA's problems entirely on the playing field. The crowd of over 54,000 was dominated by Hondurans, and they had a complaint to register. The organisers wanted the US fans to occupy the lower tier, with the Hondurans upstairs.

Selling tickets that way seemed like discrimination to many Hondurans – including Hugo Noe Pino, who just happens to be the Honduran ambassador, and who said he had to buy lower-deck seats through an aide's wife with a non-Hispanic surname.

While the US soccer federation denied any wrongdoing, the US Justice Department announced that it would

Shaking all over...Costa Rican fans celebrate World Cup qualification with top striker Paulo Wanchope

investigate – discrimination on the basis of national origin is a federal offence.

When the USA took the field in Costa Rica four days later, Regis was not among the starters. But if anything, the USA defence was even worse, while at the other end of the field the offence got off only two recognisable shots in the entire game.

What had gone wrong? Could it be that – just as the return of Blanco had transformed Mexico into a winning team – the absence of the US captain Claudio Reyna was the reason for his team's suddenly dismal form?

Reyna missed all three of the USA's losing games. Also missing, with long-term injuries, were Josh Wolff and Clint Mathis, both regular scorers in recent internationals.

There are six games remaining in total, and the situation is covered by a useful cliche: 'delicately poised'. The six games could be greatly affected by the willingness or reluctance of European clubs to release players.

Between them, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago have called on some 18 players with English clubs, who are never delighted to release them. Will they be even less delighted now that those two teams are no-hopers? Will Manchester City fall over themselves to release Paulo Wanchope to play for a team that has already qualified?

Also working against the release of the players is the fact that many of them – including Wanchope – are with non-top division clubs and therefore do not get a break in their schedule for national team duty.

That seems to have been a problem for Honduras. Their best player, David Suazo, is with Cagliari of Italy's Serie B – he was unavailable for both games against the United States.

On paper, the USA have the easiest two games: home to Jamaica (all but mathematically eliminated) and away in Trinidad (already out). Mexico have to play in Costa Rica – but against a team that have already qualified.

To be certain of qualifying the USA need to win both their remaining games. The last game is in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad – the site of a famous US victory in 1989, and one that put an end to Trinidad & Tobago's hopes of getting to Italia 90.

Which means that Trinidad & Tobago have a strong incentive for making that a difficult game for the USA. What better way for Trinidad & Tobago to end a feeble qualifying campaign than by eliminating the USA?

Renaissance man...Mexico coach Javier Aguirre

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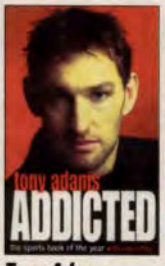

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Demolition derby...club factions are feuding over the future of the Stadium of Light

Boom or bust?

Benfica's summer spending spree has vastly improved the squad, but at what price to the club? Nick Bidwell reports

"BENFICA are sick and great ills don't suddenly disappear," lamented their president, Dr Manuel Vilarinho, last April. "We will recover but our soul is weak at the moment."

A few weeks later, the diagnosis was proved right. A miserable sixth-place Portuguese League finish meant the deplumed Eagles had failed to qualify for Europe for the first time.

Without a Portuguese League title since 1993-94 and now banished from European competition, the time had clearly come for a mediocre Benfica squad to undergo major reconstructive surgery, and the management swiftly went in with the scalpel.

In Benfica's Summer of the Long Knives, no fewer than 15 players were released, chief among them last season's top scorer, the prolific but wilful Dutchman Pierre Van Hooijdonk, who moved on to Feyenoord, Egyptian winger Sabry, Portuguese midfielders Maniche and Calado, Yugoslav defender Ivan Dudic and Argentinian keeper Carlos Bossio.

However, much more stunning was the highly ambitious recruitment drive being undertaken simultaneously. Despite massive debts of £25million – including £9m to the taxman – new sports director Luis Felipe Vieira, the former Alverca president, somehow found the resources to go on a mammoth shopping spree. He brought in 15 players, very few of them originating from the bargain basement.

Brazilian central defenders Argel and Julio Cesar arrived from Palmeiras and Real Madrid respectively; Cabral (Belenenses), Toni (Farense) and Italian Emanuele Pesaresi (Lazio, on loan) were brought in to solve the club's long-standing problems at full-back; experienced Yugoslav winger Ljubinko Drulovic was lured away from FC Porto; and there were also the signings of Swedish midfielder Anders Andersson (AaB Aalborg), top Croat marksman Tomislav Sokota (Dinamo Zagreb) and diminutive schemer Hugo Porfirio (Maritimo).

But what really sent waves of optimism tumbling around the Stadium of Light was Vieira's triple coup of bringing in the brilliant teenage Angolan striker Pedro Mantorras (£3.5m, Alverca), Slovenian attacking midfielder Zlatko Zahovic (£6m, Valencia) and young Portuguese winger Simao Sabrosa (£7.2m, Barcelona).

Mantorras (see profile, page 61) is already being likened to the Benfica great Eusebio; Zahovic, remains an excellent playmaker and finisher despite some unhappy times at Olympiakos and Valencia; while Simao, now the most expensive player in Portuguese football history, was arguably never given a fair chance at Barça and should be a big hit in the Portuguese League with his speed, cunning and crossing ability.

So where did the money come from? After all, Vilarinho's predecessor, Joao Vale e Azevedo – who now sits in a Lisbon jail awaiting trial for fraud and embezzlement during his term of office – had left the club in dire financial straits.

The current president denies the accusations that this summer's buying frenzy was extravagant, claiming the overall picture was one of "signing free agents, negotiating exchange deals and buying cheap".

Not strictly so. Much of the finance for Benfica's spending spree was provided by building developer and new club director Victor Santos, whose consortium recently bought a 25 per cent stake in the club. But more of this controversial figure later.

There's no question that Benfica have the strongest squad for many a year, that they have the personnel to seriously challenge FC Porto, Boavista and Sporting Lisbon. However, their coach, Toni, who led them to their last championship crown in 1994, knows only too well that building a team virtually from scratch is no easy option.

"Too much must not be expected too soon," he said. "We do have a lot of new players here, some of whom still don't know Portuguese football well. We

are in a transitional phase. It's natural that we will have our ups and downs in the next few months. We're all striving to have a team which is a consistent and strong unit, but this takes time."

Even so, the signs in pre-season were that Toni and his assistant, Jesualdo Ferreira, a former boss of the Portuguese Under-21s, were on the right road. Their 4-2-3-1 system was bedding down well and friendly victories over Galatasaray, Feyenoord and Fiorentina were boosts to morale.

Then anti-climax. Benfica inexplicably reverted to accident-prone type during their 2-2 draw at newly-promoted Varzim on the opening day of the new Primeira season. They conceded two goals in the last seven minutes and had Pesaresi and Porfirio sent off. To make matters worse, Zahovic flounced off after being substituted, while Sokota, angry at being left on the bench, clashed with Vieira.

"We are building a great team and we don't want to admit that we have been humiliated, but that is what has happened today," admitted the sports director. Subsequent League victories over Salgueiros (2-0) and Vitoria Setubal (3-2) – the latter dominated by a wonderful Mantorras hat-trick – quickly put Benfica back on track, and showed that there are many reasons for cheer. Argel and Julio Cesar are an ever-improving central defensive partnership, skipper Fernando Meira is showing solidity and intelligence in defensive midfield, the wing play of Simao and Drulovic is incisive, and Zahovic and Mantorras are displaying virtuosity.

Welcome to Benfica...club legend Eusebio greets new boy Simao

Lured from Porto...Ljubinko Drulovic

'Don't expect too much too soon. We're all striving for a consistent, strong unit, but this takes time'

coach Toni

Yet Toni is still keeping a lid on any over-optimism. "The team is anxious and nervous and not yet at its best," he stated. "Anyone who thinks Benfica will win all their games by four or five-nil is very mistaken.

"The League is becoming more competitive and unpredictable. Opponents are working hard to stop us, they are defending in numbers and hoping to catch us on the break. We have to be prepared physically and mentally to overcome such difficulties. It will be like that right to the end of the season."

The coach must also be concerned by a timebomb ticking in the boardroom, namely the conflict that has broken out over the future of the Stadium of Light.

President Vilarinho and Victor Santos want to demolish the stadium, sell off the land and delve into the proceeds to build a new state-of-the art, 71,000-capacity arena nearby for use at Euro 2004; more traditionalist board members, ex-presidents Fernando Martins and Joao Santos, and the bulk of the fans regard the levelling of their home as sacrilege and advocate the renovation of the present structure.

The latter group say the plans of Vilarinho and Victor Santos are all about greed. They claim Santos only made loans to bankroll the summer purchases on the proviso that he cashes in when the demolition men get to work, and their suspicions were heightened when reports emerged that Santos was under investigation for alleged tax irregularities. "They will do this over my dead body," declared Fernando Martins. "Benfica's priorities should be producing a competitive football team and paying off their debts. We've just finished in our worst League position ever, and now they want to build a new stadium and run up more debts. There are a lot of personal interests behind this."

Joao Santos added: "The huge profits that will benefit the developers are influencing Vilarinho and this is not right."

Club finance director Mario Negrao and accounts committee chairman Luis Nazare resigned in protest against the new stadium plan. At the same time, both men stated their belief that Benfica's summer signing bonanza could cripple the club.

"I don't agree with this madness that is going on at our club," said Negrao. "We are signing players at wage levels we cannot afford. This will ruin Benfica."

Good news for the Stadium of Light preservation society is that the new ground may never get off the drawing board. Club members are unlikely to ratify the project, while Lisbon city council has already put a block on proceedings. It believes the development would take up too much land and has asked for revised plans to be submitted in 2002, a date way past UEFA's deadline for work to begin on the new stadium if it is to be considered for Euro 2004.

A mess, indeed, and it is debatable whether Vilarinho can survive. He has started a PR offensive, promising not to interfere in footballing matters, claiming he has wiped out £30m of debt since taking over in December 2000, and talking of a rights issue, which he says will lift the club out of the red.

But his proposal to demolish the Stadium of Light has alienated far too many Benfica lovers. Around 120,000 paid-up members and six million fans worldwide can't be wrong.

● *Squad pen pics are over the page.*

COACH

TONI (Antonio Jose da Conceicao Oliveira)

Born: 14.10.46
Appointed in December 2000 after Jose Mourinho walked out. An outstanding right-half for the Eagles during the 1970s, when he also won 32 caps for Portugal. Has had three spells coaching Benfica. Under his command they won the Portuguese League in 1989 and 1994, the Portuguese Cup in 1993, and reached the 1988 Champions Cup Final, before losing to PSV Eindhoven on penalties. One of Portugal's coaching team when they reached the Euro 84 semi-finals, he has also taken charge of Bordeaux and Sevilla.

GOALKEEPERS

Robert ENKE (Ger)

24.08.77
Played only one full season in the Bundesliga, opting to quit Borussia Monchengladbach following their relegation in June 1999 and accepted an offer from then Benfica boss Jupp Heynckes. Has developed well in Portugal and spurned the chance to join Manchester United this summer as Fabien Barthez's understudy.

Jose Filipe da Silva MOREIRA

20.03.82
Porto-born product of the Benfica youth system for whom first-team chances have been at a premium.

DEFENDERS

ARGEL (Argelico Fucks) (Bra)

04.09.74
No wonder he prefers to go by the name of Argel. The powerful Brazilian centre-back joined Benfica from Palmeiras for £1.8m this summer. Once with FC Porto but released for disciplinary reasons two years ago. Quotable and confident, he has likened Benfica to "a dormant volcano just waiting to erupt".

Paulo Sergio Martinho CABRAL

24.06.72
Late-developing right-back or right-sided midfielder who arrived on a Bosman from Belenenses in the close season. Scored an own goal on his debut against Varzim in August. Angola-born, but now has Portuguese citizenship and was called up to his adopted country's national squad recently.

Marco Antonio Simoes CANEIRA

09.02.79
Talented Under-21 centre-back who spent last season on loan to Reggina in Italy from parent club Internazionale. Chose to return to his native land this summer. Began career with Sporting Lisbon.

DIOGO Miguel Alves LUIS

10.08.80
Lisbon-born youngster touted to push Pesaresi all the way for the left-back berth. Benfica youth product and Portuguese Under-21 international.

JULIO CESAR Santos Correa (Bra)

17.08.78
This stopper or libero has not had the stellar career his physical and technical attributes seemed to guarantee him during his first European posting at Valladolid in Spain. Moved to Real Madrid in 1999 but could not hold down a first-team place and has been on loan ever since, first with Milan, then Real Sociedad and now Benfica, whom he joined in June.

Emanuele PESARESI (Ita)

01.12.76
Accomplished left-back who first made his mark at Sampdoria under Sven Goran Eriksson. Renewed acquaintances with the Swede at Lazio last season, but barely featured in the first team and was happy to come to Lisbon on a one-year loan deal. A former Italian Under-21 international.

QUIM BERTO (Joaquim Alberto Machado)

09.10.71
Unable to win a place in the Sporting Lisbon line-up over the past two years, this experienced, solid left-back moved across the capital in June on a free transfer. Had a long spell at Guimaraes before joining Sporting in 1997.

TONI (Antonio Pedro de Brito Lopes)

23.07.79
Benfica caused a stir when recruiting this highly-promising Portuguese Under-21 centre-back or right-back from Farense early this season. Belgian club Royal Antwerp claim he has already signed for them and will not let the matter lie. Previously had had trials at Leicester and Manchester City, and was linked with Newcastle and West Ham.

MIDFIELDERS

Anders ANDERSSON (Swe)

15.03.74
Follows a long line of Swedish players to wear the Benfica shirt (Glenn Stromberg, Mats Magnusson, Stefan Schwarz, Jonas Thern, Martin Pringle). Joined in the close season from Danish club AaB. Capped 16 times, his spirit and industry make him a fine defensive midfielder, but he also offers good passing skills and a powerful shot, especially from free-kicks. Began career at Malmo, disappeared without trace after a move to Blackburn, then relaunched career in Denmark.

Loan star...Julio Cesar

Ljubinko DRULOVIC (Yug)

11.09.68
Diminutive international who moved to Lisbon after eight years' excellent service with Porto, where he was the main supply line to the prolific Jardel. Still a heavy-hitter despite his age (33) thanks to his speedy left-wing raids, accurate crosses and scoring ability. Will be the launch-pad for Benfica's counter-attacks.

EDNILSON Pedro Rocha Andrade Neves

25.09.82
Excellent defensive midfielder who joined Benfica at the turn of the year after spells with Roma and Reggina. Born in Guinea but now a naturalised Portuguese, he was called into the national team against Andorra in February. Began career at Boavista.

FERNANDO Jose da Silva Freitas MEIRA

05.06.78
Captain and can play either deep in midfield or at centre-back. Looked set to join Bayern Munich or Stuttgart in the summer, but the moves fell through. Failed transfers are a speciality: he was once banned from Italian football after simultaneously signing contracts with Udinese and Verona. Joined Benfica from hometown club Guimaraes in 2000.

Luis MIGUEL Garcia Monteiro

04.01.80
Right-sided Portuguese Under-21 midfielder or winger bought from Estrela Amadora in summer last year. But the arrival of Simao means his immediate future is on the bench.

Hugo Cardoso PORFIRIO

28.09.73
Quick-witted but volatile left-sided midfielder recruited from Maritimo in the close season for a second spell with the Eagles. First time round (1998-00) he fell out with coaches Graeme Souness and Jupp Heynckes. Once with Sporting Lisbon, Nottingham Forest and West Ham, he was sent off three times last season and once already this term.

Zlatko ZAHOVIC (Sln)

01.02.71
Mercurial Slovenian playmaker-cum-scorer bought from Valencia for £6m. But which Zahovic will turn out for Benfica – the one who has done so much to make Slovenia an international force or the one who went on strike at Olympiakos and failed to make an impression at Mestalla? At least Portugal suits him. He played the best club football of his career at Porto in the latter half of 1990s.

Italian import...Pesaresi

FORWARDS

MANTORRAS (Pedro Manuel Torres) (Ang)

18.03.82
The teenage Angolan has been in sensational form since arriving in June from Alverca for £3.5m, impressing with his pace, strength and scoring ability. His exploits have sent the hyperbole merchants into overdrive, dubbing him the 'new Eusebio'. Barcelona are reported to have first option to buy when he leaves Benfica, but they will have to dig deep. The fee is expected to be £30m.

SIMAO Pedro Fonseca Sabrosa

30.10.79
The right-winger did not fulfil his huge potential during the past two years at Barcelona. But Benfica had no qualms about making him the most expensive player in Portuguese history, paying £7.2m for his creativity and pace. It will be a big surprise if he does not soon rediscover his confidence and best form back in his native country. Simao's first club, Sporting Lisbon, are still seething that their former starlet is now in Benfica red. They believe they should have had first option when Barça made him available.

Tomislav SOKOTA (Cro)

08.04.77
The Croatian League's top scorer for the past two seasons, he chose to quit Dinamo Zagreb for Benfica this summer. Has great technique, packs a mean shot and is a free-kick expert, but lacks pace.

WORLDSERVICE

INTERNATIONALS

Thursday, August 16

Aug 16 - Bogota - WC qual
Colombia 0
Peru 1 (Solano 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,875. **Ref:** Ramos Rizo (Mex)
Colombia: O Cordoba - I Cordoba, Yepes, M Serna, Oviedo (Arriaga 54), Hernandez, Aristizabal, Lopez, Murillo (Ramirez 65), Grisales (Castillo 65), Bedoya.
Peru: Miranda - Rebosio, Hidalgo, Pajuelo, Solano, Jayo (Salazar 73), Pizarro (Jose Soto 82), Palacios, Jorge Soto, Mendoza (Holsen 87), Del Solar.

Aug 16 - Doha - WC qual
Qatar 0
Oman 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Ebrahim (Bhn)
Qatar: Al-Romaihi - Al-Naemi (Budawood 46), Al-Shammari, Al-Enazi, S Al-Kathiri, Mahmoud, Al-Tamimi, Al-Qusi (M Al-Blooshi 76), Mohd, Fazli, Hashim (Bujaloof 60).
Oman: Al-Mazroi - Al-Hasni, Al-Masori, Al-Balushi (Ashoor 77), Al-Harbi, Bait Dorbeen (Al-Hadri 80), Al-Siyabi, Al-Saadi (Y J Al-Mukhaini 84), Al-Dhabit, N Z Al-Mukhaini, Al-Noobi.

Friday, August 17

Aug 17 - Baghdad - WC qual
Iraq 4 (Fiead 23, 74, Ridha 69, Hussain Shaaib 84)
Thailand 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Okada (Jap)
Iraq: Ahmad Jabor - Majid, Redha, Ekal, Fiead, Ahmed Jassim (Hussain Shaaib 70), Abbas Jassim (Sabbar 44), Atea, H Jassim, Assad, Farhan (Ridha 56).
Thailand: Kittisak - Niweat, Choketawee (Tananchai 83), Anuruck (Surachai Jirasirichote 63), Chukiat, Tawan, Thawatchai, Nirut, Kiatisuk, Dusit, Sakesan (Sutee 85).

Aug 17 - Riyadh - WC qual
Saudi Arabia 1 (O Al-Dosari 83)
Bahrain 1 (Salmeen 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Mane (Kuw)
Saudi Arabia: Babkr - Zubromawi, I Al-Shahrani, Hawsawi (Al-Otaibi 70), O Al-Dosari, Ahmed D Al-Dosari, Bin Shehan (Al-Jaber 46), A Al-Shahrani, Al-Saqri, Al-Ghamdi, Al-Khilaiwi (Ahmed K Al-Dosari 40).
Bahrain: Al-Ruwaie - Husain Mohamed, A Al-Dosery, Al-Kuwarie (Musaifer 90), Abdulrahaman Saif, Isa Mohamed (Juma 75), Salmeen, Faisal, Talal Yusuf Mohamed, Ghuloom (A Abdullah 82), Yusuf Mohamed.

Aug 17 - Abu Dhabi - WC qual
United Arab Emirates 4 (Y S Ali 21, Farhan 33, F Ali 44, Bakhit 85)
Uzbekistan 1 (Shirshov 37)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
UAE: Humaid - F Ali, A S Jumaa, Abdul Rahman, Ahmed, Y S Ali, A R Jumaa, Masoud (Salim 67), Farhan (Bakhit 80), Khater (Mohamed 67), Qassim.
Uzbekistan: Polyakov - Alikulov (Soliev 65), Kassymov, Lushan, Sabirov (Abbanativ 69), Koshekev (Akhmerov 26), Irismetov, Faiziev, Shatskikh, Davletov, Shirshov.

Saturday, August 18

Aug 18 - Lusaka - Cosafa CC semi-final
Zambia 1 (Nsofwa 36)
Angola 1 (Akwa 11)
HT: 1-1
Angola 4-2 on pens

Thursday, August 23

Aug 23 - Manama - WC qual
Bahrain 2 (Talal Yusuf Mohamed 60, Al-Kuwarie 82)
Iraq 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Dalu (Syr)
Bahrain: Al-Ruwaie - Husain Mohamed, A Ali, Al-Kuwarie, Abdulrahaman Saif (Musaifer 71), K Al-Doseri, Salmeen, Faisal, Talal Yusuf Mohamed (A Abdullah 80), Ghuloom, Yusuf Mohamed (Salem 56).
Iraq: Ahmad Jabor (Amer Hussain 66) - Majid, Radhi, Redha, Ekal (Hussain Shaaib 17), Fiead, Atea, H Jassim, Assad, Farhan (Ridha 34), Abolheel.

Aug 23 - Veracruz - friendly
Mexico 5 (R Morales 3, Johan Rodriguez 7, Borgetti 52, Vidrio 73, De Nigris 88)
Liberia 4 (Weah 24, Saar 38, Pobleh 50, D Sebwe 72)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Pineda (Hnd)
Mexico: O Perez - A Rodriguez (Victorino 81), Vidrio, Suarez, H Morales (Brown 46), R Morales (Campos 46), Villa, Garcia Aspe, Johan Rodriguez (Mercado 46), Arellano, Borgetti (De Nigris 75).
Liberia: Crayton - Kojo, Kpoto, D Sebwe, Nagbe, K Sebwe, Weah, F Johnson, Saar, Brown (Kinneston 83), Pobleh. *Sent off: D Sebwe 75min.*

Friday, August 24

Aug 24 - Tehran - WC qual
Iran 2 (Daei 55, 65)
Saudi Arabia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 120,000. **Ref:** Micallef (Aus)
Iran: Mirzapour - Mahdavikia, Minavand, Hasheminassab, Karimi (Kavianpour 80), Din Mohammadi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht (Samereh 87), Nekonam, Golmohammadi, Rezaei.
Saudi Arabia: Babkr - Zubromawi, Ahmed K Al-Dosari, Al-Harbi (Al-Ghamdi 70), Hawsawi, Al-Jaber (I Al-Shahrani 76), O Al-Dosari (Al-Otaibi 69), Ahmed D Al-Dosari, Sulimani, A Al-Shahrani, Al-Saqri. *Sent off: Al-Saqri 59min.*

Saturday, August 25

Aug 25 - Shenyang - WC qual
China 3 (Li Xiao 3, Qi Hong 20, Hao Haidong 34)
United Arab Emirates 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Rungklay (Tha)
China: Jiang Jin - Wu Chengying, Fan Zhiyi, Sun Jihai, Li Tie, Ma Mingyu, Hao Haidong, Li Weifeng, Li Xiaopeng, Qi Hong, Yang Cheng.
UAE: Humaid - F Ali, A S Jumaa, Abdul Rahman, Ahmed, Y S Ali, A R Jumaa, Masoud, Farhan, Khater, Qassim.

Aug 25 - Blantyre - Cosafa CC semi-final
Malawi 0
Zimbabwe 2 (Kasinuayo 21, M Dube 58)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Williams (SAf)
Malawi: Sanudi - Mponda, Yobe (Munthali 46), Mwase, Kafwafwa, Chimera, J Banda (Mgangira 46), Maduka, Msuku, Chitsulo (Phiri 68), Kanyenda.
Zimbabwe: C Dube - J Matola, Ncube, Gilbert, Gwata, A Matola, Nyandoro, Kasinuayo, Sibanda (Choruma 63), Komani, M Dube.

Sunday, August 26

Aug 26 - Tashkent - WC qual
Uzbekistan 2 (Irismetov 37, Kassymov 52)
Qatar 1 (Bujaloof 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
Uzbekistan: Polyakov - Alikulov, Kassymov, Lushan, Vlagrcher (Akhmerov 84), Irismetov (Koshekev 75), Annamatov (Soliev 68), Faiziev, Shatskikh, Davletov, Shirshov.
Qatar: Al-Romaihi - Al-Naemi, Al-Shammari, Al-Enazi (Rasoul 46), S Al-Khatiri, Mahmoud, M Al-Blooshi (Bujaloof 71), Al-Tamimi, Al-Qusi (Al-Mulla 57), Mohd, Fazli.

Friday, August 31

Aug 31 - Muscat - WC qual
Oman 0
China 2 (Qi Hong 70, Fan Zhiyi pen 84)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Supian (Mly)

Aug 31 - Manama, Bahrain - WC qual
Saudi Arabia 1 (O Al-Dosari 45)
Iraq 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lu (Chn)

Aug 31 - Abu Dhabi - WC qual
United Arab Emirates 0
Qatar 2 (Khalifa 65, Al-Obaidly 71)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Zaid (Sau)

Saturday, September 1

Sep 1 - Tirana - WC qual
Albania 0
Finland 2 (Tainio 57, Kuqi 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,400. **Ref:** Ersoy (Tur)
Albania: Becaj - Lala, Cipi, Xhumba, Bellai, Muka (R Vata 62), Haxhi, F Vata, Bushi, Rraklli (Bogdani 64), Tare (Fortuzi 64).
Finland: A Niemi - Helin, Saarinen, Hyypia, Kuivasto, Riihilahti, Nurmela (Kuqi 78), Tainio, Forssell (Johansson 66), Litmanen (Ilola 86), Kolkka.

Sep 1 - Lleida, Spain - WC qual
Andorra 1 (Alonso 41)
Portugal 7 (Nuno Gomes 36, 40, 44, 90, Pauleta 39, Rui Jorge 45, Sergio Conceicao 58)
HT: 1-5. **Att:** 4,876. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Andorra: Koldo - Ramirez, Lucendo (Txema 60), Jonas, T Lima, Sonejee, E Gonzalez (Jimenez 76), J Sanchez, Escura, Pol Perez, J Ruiz Gonzalez (G Garcia 90).
Portugal: Ricardo - Frechaut, Beto, Jorge Costa, Rui Jorge (Nuno Gomes 32), Petit (Fernando Meira 61), Figo, Capucho (Simao 46), Sergio Conceicao, Joao Pinto, Pauleta.

Sep 1 - Minsk - WC qual
Belarus 0
Ukraine 2 (Shevchenko 45, 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Belarus: Khomutovsky - Yakhimovich, Ostrovski (Yaskovich 53), Lukhvich, Shtanyuk - Gurenko, Khatskevich (Tarlovsky 46), Bialkevich (Romaschenko 60), Shuneiko, Volodenkov - Kachuro.
Ukraine: Virt - Luzhnyi, Holovko, Vaschuk, Nesmachnyi - Tymoshchuk, Parfyonov, Zubov - Shevchenko, Vorobei (Melaschenko 71), Rebrov.

Sep 1 - Sarajevo - WC qual
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
Israel 0
Att: 7,700. **Ref:** Schoch (Swi)
Bosnia: Piplica - Beslija, Music, Konjic, Akrapovic, Hibic, Sabic, Salihamidzic, Topic (Muharemovic 74), Mujcin (Hota 82), Baljic (Saranovic 79).
Israel: Awat - Talker (Harazi 46), Shelach, Gershon, Benado, Keissi, Zeytuni, Banin, Tal, Nimni, Revivo (Katan 70).

Sep 1 - Santiago - friendly
Chile 2 (Galdames 3, Navia 51)
France 1 (Trezeguet 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 66,384. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)
Chile: S Vargas (N Tapia 72) - R Rojas (L Fuentes 78), J Vargas, Reyes, Aros (Perez 69) - Galdames, Acuna - F Rojas, Tello (Valencia 83), Navia (Montecinos 60) - Zamorano (Nunez 88).
France: Rame - Thuram (Sagnol 88), Desailly (Leboeuf 46), Silvestre, Lizarazu - Vieira (Makelele 63), Petit - Wiltord (Henry 46), Zidane, Pires (Marlet 68) - Trezeguet.

Sep 1 - Copenhagen - WC qual
Denmark 1 (Rommedahl 3)
Northern Ireland 1 (Mulryne 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,500. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Denmark: Sorensen (Kjaer 13) - Helveg, Henriksen, Laursen, Heintze, Tofting, P Nielsen (Frandsen 69), Rommedahl, Gronkjaer, Tomasson (Nygaard 79), E Sand.
N Ireland: Taylor - Griffin, A Hughes, Murdock, Kennedy, Gillespie, Magilton, M Hughes (Elliott 71), Mulryne, Horlock, Healy.

Sep 1 - Toftir - WC qual
Faroe Islands 1 (J K Hansen pen 85)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,470. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - H F Hansen, Johannesen, J K Hansen, J B Hansen, Olsen (Lakjuni 59), a Borg, Benjaminsen, J Petersen, J Johnsson, C Jacobsen.
Luxembourg: Gillet - Schauls, Schaack, Reiter, Saibene (Schneider 46), Strasser, Peters, Holtz, Braun (Huss 67), Cardoni, Posing.

Sep 1 - Tbilisi - WC qual
Georgia 3 (S Arveladze 34, Dzhamarauli 49, Iashvili 64)
Hungary 1 (Matyus 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Kos (Sln)
Georgia: Gvaramadze - Kobiashvili, Khizanishvili, Rekhviashvili, Kaladze, Tskitishvili (Sajaia 78), Nemsadze, Kavelashvili (Iashvili 46), Dzhamarauli, Kinkladze, S Arveladze (Demetradze 62). *Sent off: Rekhviashvili 64min.*
Hungary: Kiraly - G Korsos, T Peto, Matyus, V Sebok, Halmai (Dardai 53), Kabat, Lisztes, Horvath (Tokoli 62), Illes (Lendvai 66), A Korsos.

Sep 1 - Munich - WC qual
Germany 1 (Jancker 6)
England 5 (Owen 13, 48, 66, Gerrard 45, Heskey 73)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 63,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Germany: Kahn - Worns (Asamoah 46), Nowotny, Linke - Rehmer, Hamann, Ballack (Klose 67), Bohme - Deisler - Jancker, Neuville (Kehl 78).
England: Seaman - G Neville, Campbell, Ferdinand, Ashley Cole - Beckham, Gerrard (Hargreaves 78), Scholes (Carragher 83), Barmby (McManaman 65) - Owen, Heskey.

Sep 1 - Reykjavik - WC qual
Iceland 3 (E Sverrisson 45, 77, Sigthorsson 65)
Czech Republic 1 (Jankulovski 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,011. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Iceland: Arason - A Helgason, E Sverrisson, Hreidarsson, Vidarsson - Gretarsson, Marteinsson (L O Sigurdsson 83), J K Gudjonsson - H Sigurdsson (H Helguson 73), Sigthorsson, E Gudjohnsen (Baldvinsson 73).
Czech Republic: Srnicek - Grygera (Horvath 66), Novotny, Johana, Tyce, Poborsky (Lokvenc 66), Jarosik (Jankulovski 46), Rosicky, Nedved, Koller, Baros. *Sent off: Koller 39min.*

Sep 1 - Kaunas - WC qual
Lithuania 0
Italy 0
Att: 5,500. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)

Lithuania: Stauce - Skarbalius, Stankevicius, Gleveckas, Dziaukstas - Razanauskas (Narbekovas 88), R Zutautas, Morinas, Mikalajunas - Jankauskas, Poskus (Semberas 85).
Italy: Buffon - Cannavaro, Nesta, Maldini - Zambrotta (Coco 82), Tommasi, Tacchinardi, Pancaro - Totti (Fiore 88) - Vieri, Del Piero (F Inzaghi 61).

Sep 1 - Skopje - WC qual
Macedonia 1 (Nacevski 63)
Sweden 2 (Larsson 27, P Andersson 32)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Macedonia: Gruevski - Nikolovski, Gjuzelov, Mitrevski, Z Jovanovski, Stavrevski, Trajanov (Stojanov 61), Serafimovski (Ignjatov 83), Sakiri, Beqiri (Nacevski 46), Maznov.
Sweden: Hedman - Mellberg, P Andersson, Mjallby (C Andersson 66), Kaamark (Saarenpaa 83), Linderoth, Alexandersson, A Svensson (D Andersson 64), Ljungberg, Allback, Larsson.

Sep 1 - Valletta - WC qual
Malta 0
Bulgaria 2 (Berbatov 75, 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 409. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
Malta: Muscat - Said, Turner, Spiteri, Theuma, Carabott, Agius (Zahra 36), Giglio (Ciantar 67), M Mifsud, Debono, Nwoko (Licari 87). *Sent off: Theuma 75min.*
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Pazin, Markov, B Ivanov, Stilian Petrov, Peev, Chomakov (Balakov 54; Stoicho Stoilov 82), Alexandrov (Yanchev 70), M Petkov, Georgi Ivanov, Berbatov.

Sep 1 - Chisinau - WC qual
Moldova 2 (Clescenco 15, Covalciuc 85)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Melnychuk (Ukr)
Moldova: Romanenco - Olexic, Rebeja, Berco, Sosnovschi, Catinsus, Curtianu (Boret 68), Comleonoc, Sischin (Andronic 54), Rogaciov (Covalciuc 83), Clescenco.
Azerbaijan: Gasanzade - Getman (R Guliev 66), Yunusov, Niftaliev (A Mamedov 72), R Mamedov, K Guliev, M Kurbanov, Tagizade, Ismailov (V Vasilyev 69), S Aliyev, Emin Guliev.

Sep 1 - Chorzow - WC qual
Poland 3 (Kryszalowicz 45, Olisadebe 77, Marcin Zewlakow 88)
Norway 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,500. **Ref:** Liba (Cze)
Poland: Dudek - Klos, Hajto, Waldoch, Michal Zewlakow - Karwan, Kaluzny, Swierczewski (A Bak 90), Kozminski (Krzynowek 81) - Kryszalowicz (Marcin Zewlakow 74), Olisadebe.
Norway: Myhre - Basma, R Johnsen, H Berg, Bergdolmo - R Strand (Riise 62), Rudi, Sorensen, Leonhardsen (Rushfeldt 80), Iversen (P Strand 89) - Solskjaer.

Sep 1 - Dublin - WC qual
Rep Ireland 1 (McAteer 67)
Holland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,400. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Rep Ireland: Given - G Kelly, Dunne, Staunton, Harte - McAteer (O'Brien 90), Roy Keane, Holland, Kilbane - Robbie Keane (Finnan 58), Duff (Quinn 88). *Sent off: G Kelly 58min.*
Holland: Van der Sar - Melchiot, Stam, Hofland, Numan (Van Hooijdonk 64) - Cocu, Van Bommel - Zenden (Hasselbaink 54), Kluivert, Overmars (Van Bronckhorst 71) - Van Nistelrooy.

Sep 1 - Glasgow - WC qual
Scotland 0
Croatia 0
Att: 47,584. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Scotland: Sullivan - Weir, Elliott, Matteo - Dailly, Burley, Lambert, Naysmith (Gemmill 85) - Hutchison, Booth (Dodds 71), McCann (Cameron 52).
Croatia: Pletikosa - Tudor, Stimac, R Kovac, Zivkovic, Tomas (Biscan 83), Soldo, Jarni, Stanic (Suker 71), Prosinecki (Vugrinec 78), Balaban.

Sep 1 - Bratislava - WC qual
Slovakia 0
Turkey 1 (Hakan Sukur 34)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,783. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Slovakia: Bucek - Kozak, Varga, Timko (Labant 78), Balis (Pinte 46), Karhan, Janocko, Demo, Gresko, S Nemeth (Vittek 46), Oravec.
Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Alpay, Umit Ozat, Umit Davala, Yildiray (Nihat 61), Tayfur, Ogun (Tayfun 87), Hasan Sas (Arif 78), Abdullah, Hakan Sukur.

Sep 1 - Ljubljana - WC qual
Slovenia 2 (Osterc 62, Acimovic pen 90)
Russia 1 (Titov 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Karic, Milinovic, Galic, Knavs, Novak, A Ceh, Pavlin, Rudonja (Pavlovic 78), Cimerotic (Osterc 46), Acimovic.
Russia: Nigmatullin - Khokhlov (Izmailov 46), Dayev, Chugainov, Gusev (Semak 65), Kovtun, Onopko, Karpin, Titov, Mostovoi, Beschastnykh (Shirko 79).

Sep 1 - Valencia - WC qual
Spain 4 (Diego Tristan 44, Morientes 78, 83, Mendieta 90)
Austria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
Spain: Canizares - Manuel Pablo, Hierro, Nadal, Aranzabal, Victor (Mendieta 79), Valeron, Xavi, Vicente (Luis Enrique 83), Raul, Diego Tristan (Morientes 71).
Austria: Wohlfahrt - Baur, Prilasnig, Hiden, Kogler, Flogel, Herzog, Ibertsberger (Winklhofer 69), Hortnagl, Vastic (Brunmayr 65), Weissenberger (Kitzbichler 57).

Sep 1 - Basle - WC qual
Switzerland 1 (H Yakin 24)
Yugoslavia 2 (Milosevic 39, Krstajic 74)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,190. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Switzerland: Pascolo - Zellweger (Frei 75), M Yakin, P Muller, Berner - Sesa (Chapuisat 75), Vogel, Fournier, Comisetti (Sforza 69) - H Yakin, Turkyilmaz. *Sent off: H Yakin 64min.*
Yugoslavia: Kralj - Mirkovic, Djukic, Krstajic - Lazetic (Drulovic 67), Jokanovic, P Djordjevic, Dmitrovic - Mijatovic (D Stankovic 80) - Kezman, Milosevic (Kovacevic 69).

Sep 1 - Bangkok - WC qual
Thailand 0
Iran 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Bujsaim (UAE)
Thailand: Kittisak - Niweat, Choketawee, Anuruck (Surachai Jirasirichote 82), Chukiat, Tawan (Tananchai 72), Thawatchai, Nirut, Kiatisuk, Dusit, Sakesan (Sutee 68).
Iran: Mirzapour - Mahdavikia (Khaziravi 46), Minavand, Hasheminassab, Kavianpour (Samereh 46), Din Mohammadi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht, Nekoonam, Golmohammadi, Rezaei.

Sep 1 - Port-of-Spain - WC qual
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Costa Rica 2 (Gomez 4, 33)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Kousa (Syr)
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Saunders, M Andrews (Thomas 66), A John, Gray, Dwarika, S John, A Pierre, Belfon, N Pierre (Glasgow 61), Whitley (Rahim 46).
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Drummond, Marin, G Martinez, Fonseca (Medford 61), M Solis, Centeno (Sunsing 77), Gomez, Bryce, Parks, C Castro (Lopez 60).

Sep 1 - Washington DC - WC qual
United States 2 (Stewart 7, 83)
Honduras 3 (Nunez 28, 76, C Pavon pen 59)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 54,282. **Ref:** Navarro (Can)
USA: Friedel - Cherundolo (Preki 66), Regis (Henderson 77), Kirovski (Moore 63), Stewart, Agoos, Jones, Armas, Donovan, Sanneh, Pope.
Honduras: Valladares - S Caballero, Reyes (Perez 71), Jose Pineda, C Pavon, Leon, Nunez, Guerrero, Turcios (Bernardez 89), Guevara, Medina (Carcamo 46).

Sep 1 - Cardiff - WC qual
Wales 0
Armenia 0
Att: 18,000. **Ref:** Attard (Mlt)
Wales: P Jones - Delaney, Melville, Symons, Jenkins (Barnard 79) - Davies, Savage, C Robinson (M Jones 79) - Bellamy, Giggs - I Roberts.
Armenia: Beresovski - Sukiasyan, Hovsepyan, R Hachatryan, K Dokhoyan - A Dokhoyan, Petrosyan (Demirchyan 80), Vardanyan, Voskanyan (A Harutyunyan 67) - Movsesian, Shakhgeldyan (Simonyan 75).

Sunday, September 2

Sep 2 - Kingston - WC qual
Jamaica 1 (H Morales og 11)
Mexico 2 (C Blanco 68, 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Al-Ghandour (Egy)
Jamaica: A Lawrence - Dawes, Dixon, Simpson, Whitmore (Williams 67), Marshall, Gardner, Burton (Hall 67), Sinclair, Powell (Hayles 79), Lowe.
Mexico: O Perez - H Morales, Marquez, Vidrio, R Morales, Garcia Aspe, Villa, Palencia (Mercado 79), Arellano (Suarez 87), A Rodriguez (C Blanco 46), Borgetti.

Tuesday, September 4

Sep 4 - Santiago - WC qual
Chile 0
Venezuela 2 (Paez 56, Arango 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Betancourt (Bol)
Chile: N Tapia - F Rojas, Fuentes, Acuna, Navia, J Vargas, Tello, Montecinos, Nunez (Valencia 63), Galdames, Aros (Perez 72).
Venezuela: Dudamel - Vallenilla, R Mea Vitali, Alvarado, M Mea Vitali, Noriega (Jimenez 75), L Vera, Arango, Paez (Martinez 79), Rojas, Moran (Rondon 86).

Sep 4 - Lima - WC qual
Peru 0
Uruguay 2 (Silva 12, Recoba 45)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Peru: Miranda - Jorge Soto, Jose Soto, Pajuelo, Hidalgo, Solano, Jayo, Del Solar (Pereda 72), Palacios, Pizarro (Maestri 46), Mendoza.
Uruguay: Carini - Bizera, Lembo, D Rodriguez, Tais, Garcia, De los Santos, Guigou, Recoba (Perez 89), Silva (Reguero 72), Chevanton (Magallanes 65).

Wednesday, September 5

Sep 5 - Buenos Aires - WC qual
Argentina 2 (Gallardo 76, Cris og 84)
Brazil 1 (Ayala og 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Argentina: Burgos - Ayala, Placente (Ortega 46), Vivas, Samuel, Claudio Lopez (Almeyda 87), Zanetti, Crespo, Simeone, Aimar (Gallardo 64), Kily Gonzalez.
Brazil: Marcos - Cafu, Lucio, Roque Junior, Cris, Roberto Carlos, Eduardo (Denilson 89), Mauro Silva (Vampeta 70), Marcelinho, Rivaldo, Elber (Euller 65).

Sep 5 - Vienna - WC qual
Austria 2 (Herzog 38, 86)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,200. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Austria: Wohlfahrt - Baur, Kogler, Hiden, Ibertsberger (Winklhofer 83), Kuhbauer, Prilasnig, Herzog (Kitzbichler 88), Flogel, Vastic, Haas (Weissenberger 81).
Bosnia: Piplica - Beslija, Ikanovic (Hota 68), Konjic, Hibic, Salihamidzic, Sabic, Mujcin, Music, Baljic, Barbarez (Topic 71).

Sep 5 - Baku - WC qual
Azerbaijan 1 (Ismailov 90)
Macedonia 1 (Trajanov 12)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Ross (NI)
Azerbaijan: Gasanzade - Yadullayev, Yunusov, A Mamedov, E Guliev, K Guliev, Kurbanov, Tagizade, Vasilyev (Ismailov 71), R Guliev (Aliev 58), Musaev.
Macedonia: Gruevski - Stojanov, Gjuzelov (Pikolavski 25), Nikolovski, Stavrevski, Serafimovski, Ivanovski, Trajanov (Ignjatov 81), Sakiri, Maznov, Beqiri (Nacevski 71).

Sep 5 - Minsk - WC qual
Belarus 4 (Vasilyuk 8, 46, 51, 62)
Poland 1 (Marcin Zewlakow 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,302. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Belarus: Tumilovich - Yakhimovich, Milevsky (Yaskovich 61), Lukhvich, Shtanyuk, Gurenko, Romaschenko, Kulchy, Shuneiko, Kachuro, Vasilyuk (Ryndyuk 70; Ostrovski 83).
Poland: Dudek - Klos, Karwan, Michal Zewlakow, Waldoch, Kukielka, Swierczewski, Kozminski (Krzynowek 46), Kryszalowicz (Marcin Zewlakow 46), A Bak, Olisadebe (Gilewicz 61).

Sep 5 - Brussels - WC qual
Belgium 2 (Van Kerckhoven 28, Goor 90)
Scotland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 43,500. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre, De Boeck, Van Meir, Van Kerckhoven, Verheyen, Vanderhaeghe, Walem (Simons 89), Goor, Wilmots, Sonck (B Peeters 82).
Scotland: Sullivan - Dailly, Elliott, Weir (Cameron 66), Boyd (Booth 57), Burley (McNamara 82), Lambert, Matteo, Naysmith, Hutchison, Dodds.

Sep 5 - Sofia - WC qual
Bulgaria 0
Denmark 2 (Tomasson 47, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,500. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Markov, Pazin, B Ivanov, M Petkov (Todorov 76), Stilian Petrov (Yanchev 62), Balakov, Peev, I Petkov, Georgi Ivanov (M Petrov 62), Berbatov.
Denmark: Kjaer - Tofting, Henriksen, Laursen, Heintze, Helveg, P Nielsen (A Nielsen 46; Steen Nielsen 78), Gronkjaer (Michaelsen 73), Tomasson, Rommedahl, E Sand.

Sep 5 - Bogota - WC qual
Colombia 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 46,000. **Ref:** Al-Aqily (Sau)
Colombia: O Cordoba - Lopez, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya (Cortes 80), Ramirez, Serna, Hernandez, Murillo (Molina 68), Aristizabal (Arriaga 80), Angel.
Ecuador: Cevallos - De la Cruz, Espinoza, Hurtado, Guerron, Tenorio, Obregon, Gomez (Aguinaga 68), Mendez, Kaviedes (Fernandez 58), Delgado.

Sep 5 - San Jose - WC qual
Costa Rica 2 (Fonseca pen 39, 68)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Marin, G Martinez, Fonseca (R Cordero 79), M Solis, Wanchope, Centeno (Lopez 54), Gomez (Medford 70), Wallace, Parks, C Castro.
United States: Friedel - Vanney (Moore 54), Kirovski (Preki 70), Stewart, Agoos, Jones, Armas, Llamosa, Williams (Donovan 62), Sanneh, Pope.

Sep 5 - Larnaca - WC qual
Cyprus 1 (M Constantinou 24)
Portugal 3 (Nuno Gomes 48, Pauleta 63, Sergio Conceicao 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Cyprus: Petrides - Theodotou, Konnafis, Charalambous, Ioakim, Georgiou, Satsias (Themistocleous 88), Engomitis (Nicolaou 58), Christodolou, Okkas (Agathocleous 58), M Constantinou.
Portugal: Ricardo - Frechaut, Beto, Jorge Costa (Capucho 34), Rui Jorge, Petit, Fernando Meira, Figo, Sergio Conceicao, Joao Pinto (Nuno Gomes 34), Pauleta (Simao 80).

Sep 5 - Teplice - WC qual
Czech Republic 3 (Jankulovski 20, Lokvenc 37, Baros 68)
Malta 2 (Carabott pen 22, Agius 55)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 9,218. **Ref:** Mammedov (Aze)
Czech Republic: Smicek - Grygera, Jankulovski, Novotny, Johana, Jarosik (Horvath 66), Baranek, Rosicky, Poborsky, Kuka (Baros 54), Lokvenc (Velkoborsky 90).
Malta: Muscat - Said (Dimech 79), Carabott, Spiteri, Debono, Agius, Giglio, Mifsud (Licari 74), Turner, Zahra (Ciantar 88), Nwoko.

Sep 5 - Newcastle - WC qual
England 2 (Owen 44, Fowler 88)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,046. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)
England: Seaman - G Neville, Campbell, Ferdinand, Ashley Cole - Beckham, Gerrard (Carragher 80), Scholes, Barmby (McManaman 62) - Owen, Heskey (Fowler 54).
Albania: Strakosha - Dede, Fakaj, Cipi, Xhumba, Murati - F Vata, Bellai, Hasi (Bushaj 46) - Bogdani (Tare 55), Rraklli (Muka 61).

Sep 5 - Torshavn - WC qual
Faroe Islands 0
Russia 3 (Beschastnykh 20, 31, Shirko 88)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,927. **Ref:** Byrne (Ire)
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Johannesen, J K Hansen, J B Hansen, H F Hansen, O Hansen, Benjaminsen, J Johnsson, a Borg (Olsen 81), J Petersen, C Jacobsen (Morkore 46).
Russia: Nigmatullin - Drozdov, Nikiforov, Semak (Khokhlov 53), Alenichev (Koriaka 83), Kovtun, Onopko, Karpin, Titov, Izmailov, Beschastnykh (Shirko 46).

Sep 5 - Helsinki - WC qual
Finland 5 (Forssell 13, 44, Riihilahti 22, Kolkka 40, Litmanen pen 53)
Greece 1 (Karagounis 32)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 27,216. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
Finland: A Niemi - Helin, Saarinen, Hyypia, Tihinen, Riihilahti, Nurmela, Tainio (Wiss 62), Forssell (Johansson 79), Litmanen (Kuqi 72), Kolkka.
Greece: Eleftheropoulos - Basinas (Zikos 46), Dabizas, Georgatos, Amanatidis, Konstantinidis (Georgiadis 25), Charisteas, Zagorakis (Fissas 82), Vryzas, Machlas, Karagounis.

Sep 5 - Tbilisi - WC qual
Georgia 2 (Iashvili 85, 87)
Lithuania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Yakov (Isr)
Georgia: Gvaramadze - Kobiashvili, Khizanishvili, Sajaia, Kaladze, Tskitishvili, Nemsadze, Kavelashvili (Demetradze 46), Alexidze (Burduli 74), Kinkladze, Iashvili (S Arveladze 90).
Lithuania: Stauce - Stankevicius, Dziaukstas, Gleveckas, Skarbalius, Morinas, R Zutautas, Mikalajunas (Jankauskas 86), Semberas, Razanauskas, Poskus.

Sep 5 - Eindhoven - WC qual
Holland 5 (Zenden 15, Van Bommel 26, 39, Cocu 30, Van Nistelrooy 43)
Estonia 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 28,500. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Holland: Van der Sar - Melchiot, Stam, Hofland, Numan, Van Bommel, Cocu, Kluivert, Zenden, Van Nistelrooy (Hasselbaink 46), Overmars (Makaay 46; Van Hooijdonk 63).
Estonia: Kaalma - U Rooba, Piiroja, Stepanov, Saviauk, Novikov, Kristal, Reim, Oper, Zelinksi, Viikmae (Anniste 46).

Sep 5 - Tegucigalpa - WC qual
Honduras 1 (Nunez 52)
Jamaica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)
Honduras: Valladares - Reyes, Clavasquin, Medina, Guerrero, Turcios (Bernardez), Guevara, Pineda, Leon (Garcia), Pavon (Martinez), Nunez.
Jamaica: A Lawrence - Marshall (Johnson), Dixon, Sinclair, Dawes (Williams), Gardner, Simpson, J Lawrence, Whitmore, Burton, Hall.

Sep 5 - Budapest - WC qual
Hungary 0
Romania 2 (Ilie 10, Niculae 26)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Hungary: Kiraly - G Korsos (Kabat 46), V Sebok, Juhar, Matyus, Dardai, Lisztes, Lendvai (Gyori 63), A Korsos (Fuzi 55), Tokoli, Horvath.
Romania: Lobont - Filipescu (Kirita 73), G Popescu, Radoi, Chivu, Contra, Sabau, D Munteanu, Mutu, Ilie (Rosu 75), Niculae (Ganea 80).

Sep 5 - Piacenza - friendly
Italy 1 (Tommasi 18)
Morocco 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,741. **Ref:** Ansategui Roca (Spa)
Italy: Toldo - Bonera, Materazzi, Cannavaro (Bertotto 50) - Zambrotta (Zauri 62), Tommasi (Tacchinardi 46), Fiore (Liverani 63), Gattuso, Coco - F Inzaghi, Di Vaio (Pancaro 85). *Sent off: Tacchinardi 83min.*
Morocco: Benzekri - Ouaddou, Naybet, Fahmi (Rossi 90) - Kharbouchi, Safri, Chippo (Assas 72), Akram - Ben Mahmoud (Kaissi 65) - Bassir (Ramzi 80), Zerouali (Romani 80).

Sep 5 - Vaduz - WC qual
Liechtenstein 0
Spain 2 (Raul 17, Nadal 77)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,648. **Ref:** Dobrinov (Bul)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, Ospelt, Zech, Michael Stocklasa, Gigon, T Beck (Nigg 88), Martin Stocklasa, Gerster, M Beck (Burgmeier 67), R Buchel (M Buchel 82).
Spain: Casillas - Puyol, Tellez, Hierro (Nadal 46), Aranzabal, Etxeberria, Mendieta, Albelda, Luis Enrique (Diego Tristan 72), Raul (Jose Ignacio 46), Morientes.

Sep 5 - Luxembourg - WC qual
Luxembourg 0
Switzerland 3 (Frei 12, Turkyilmaz 57, 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,312. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)
Luxembourg: Gillet - Schauls, Schaack, Posing, Strasser, Saibene, Peters (Rohmann 89), Holtz (Mischo 46), Braun (Huss 66), Cardoni, Christophe.
Switzerland: Stiel - Haas, M Yakin, P Muller, Quentin, Sesa (Lonfat 46), Vogel (Mazzarelli 67), Sforza, Comisetti (Fournier 46), Frei, Turkyilmaz.

Sep 5 - Mexico City - WC qual
Mexico 3 (Garcia Aspe pen 24, Arellano 44, C Blanco pen 85)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Farias (Can)
Mexico: O Perez - Suarez, H Morales, Marquez, Vidrio, R Morales, Garcia Aspe (Johan Rodriguez 46), Borgetti (T Campos 65), C Blanco, Palencia (De Nigris 32), Arellano.
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Saunders, Thomas, A John, Gray, Eve (Trotman 46; Mason 78), Dwarika, Rahim (Glasgow 62), J Stern, A Pierre, Belfon. *Sent off: Belfon 52min.*

Sep 5 - Belfast - WC qual
Northern Ireland 3 (Healy 48, M Hughes 58, McCartney 61)
Iceland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,625. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)
Northern Ireland: Taylor - Griffin, McCartney, A Hughes, Kennedy - Gillespie (McVeigh 88), Magilton, Mulryne, Horlock - M Hughes - Healy.
Iceland: Arason - A Helgason (H Helguson 62), E Sverrisson, Hreidarsson, Vidarsson, J K Gudjonsson, Marteinsson, Gretarsson, H Sigurdsson (Baldvinsson 86), Sigthorsson, E Gudjohnsen.

Sep 5 - Oslo - WC qual
Norway 3 (R Johnsen 17, Carew 64, F Johnsen 83)
Wales 2 (Savage 10, Bellamy 28)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 18,211. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
Norway: Myhre - Basma, H Berg, R Johnsen, Riise - Sorensen (F Johnsen 46), R Strand, Rudi, Leonhardsen (P Strand 89), Solskjaer - Iversen (Carew 5).
Wales: P Jones - Delaney, Page, Symons, Jenkins - Davies (J Robinson 77), Savage, C Robinson (Blake 83) - Bellamy, Giggs - Hartson (M Jones 83). *Sent off: Giggs 86min.*

Sep 5 - Asuncion - WC qual
Paraguay 5 (Paredes 33, Cardozo 45, 89, Chilavert 48, Santacruz 70)
Bolivia 1 (L Paz 15)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Solorzano (Ven)
Paraguay: Chilavert - Sarabia, Ayala, Gamarra, Paredes (Quintana 56), Arce, Rodriguez, Struway (Morinigo 70), Ferreira (Gavilan 65), Santa Cruz, Cardozo.
Bolivia: Arias - Reyes, J C Paz Garcia, Raldes, Pena, Rojas, Justiniano, Galindo, Baldivieso, Castillo (Andaveriz 66), L Paz (Calustro 79). *Sent off: Rojas 77min.*

Sep 5 - Serravalle - WC qual
San Marino 0
Croatia 4 (N Kovac 40, Prosinecki pen 49, 90, Soldo 77)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Stadsgaard (Den)
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Della Balda, Matteoni, Gobbi, Gennari, Marani, B Gasperoni, Zonzini (Nanni 88), Muccioli, Selva, Montagna (Ugolini 62).
Croatia: Butina - Zivkovic, Jarni, Stimac, D Simic, Soldo, Stanic (Suker 78), N Kovac, Prosinecki, Vlaovic (Balaban 63), Vugrinec (Saric 63).

Sep 5 - Trencin - WC qual
Slovakia 4 (P Nemeth 54, S Nemeth 59, 73, Demo 65)
Moldova 2 (Clescenco 11, Rebeja 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,789. **Ref:** Vuorela (Fin)
Slovakia: Hyll - Karhan, Kozak (Demo 22), Varga, Labant, Janocko, P Nemeth, Dzurik, Gresko (Balis 80), Oravec (S Nemeth 46), Vittek.
Moldova: Romanenco - Sosnovschi, Catinsus, Rebeja, Olexic, Berco, Sischin (Covalciuc 46), Curtianu (Boret 46), Comlionoc (Andronic 88), Ciescenco, Rogaciov.

Sep 5 - Istanbul - WC qual
Turkey 1 (Hakan Sukur 51)
Sweden 2 (Larsson 87, Andreas Andersson 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Alpay, Umit Ozat, Umit Davala, Emre (Arif 46), Tayfur, Basturk (Tayfun 63), Abdullah, Hasan Sas (Ergun 88), Hakan Sukur.
Sweden: Hedman - Mellberg, Saarenpaa, P Andersson, Kaamark (Andreas Andersson 64), Linderoth, Alexandersson (Jonson 80), Ljungberg, D Andersson (A Svensson 64), Allback, Larsson.

Sep 5 - Lviv - WC qual
Ukraine 3 (Shevchenko 13, Vorobei 84, 90)
Armenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Loizou (Cyp)
Ukraine: Virt - Luzhnyi, Nesmachnyi, Holovko, Vaschuk, Serebrennikov (Shyshchenko 65), Shevchenko, Parfyonov, Zubov (Popov 46), Melaschenko (Vorobei 74), Rebrov.
Armenia: Berezovski - Sukiasyan, K Dokhoyan, Hovsepyan, Vardanyan, R Hachatryan, Petrosyan, A Dokhoyan (A Harutyunyan 82), Sarkisyan, Shakhgeldyan (H Hakopyan 70), Movsesyan.

Sep 5 - Belgrade - WC qual
Yugoslavia 1 (P Djordjevic 52)
Slovenia 1 (Milinovic 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Yugoslavia: Kralj - Djorovic, Djukic, Krstajic (Gvozdenovic 65) - Lazetic (D Stankovic 73), Jokanovic, P Djordjevic, Dmitrovic - Mijatovic, Kezman (Kovacevic 76), Milosevic.
Slovenia: Simeunovic (Dabanovic 81) - Milinovic, Galic, Knavs - Gajser, A Ceh, Pavlin, Zahovic (Acimovic 56), Karic - Rudonja (Cimerotic 37), Osterc.

Thursday, September 6

Sep 6 - Manama - WC qual
Bahrain 1 (K Al-Doseri 17)
Thailand 1 (Kiatisuk 74)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)

Friday, September 7

Sep 7 - Baghdad - WC qual
Iraq 1 (Ridha 20)
Iran 2 (Karimi 30, Daei 84)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Ramos Rizo (Mex)
Iraq: E Hassan - Majid, Ridha, Fiead (Hassum 66), Ahmed Jassim (Abbas Jassim 59), Taher, Atea, Hadi, Sabbar, Abolheel, Hanoon.
Iran: Mirzapour - Mahdavikia (Jamshidi 86), Minavand, Hasheminassab, Peyravani, Karimi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht, Khaziravi, Golmohammadi, Rezaei.

Sep 7 - Doha - WC qual
Qatar 1 (Al-Noobi 31)
China 1 (Li Weifeng 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kamikawa (Jap)

Saturday, September 8

Sep 8 - Tashkent - WC qual
Uzebekistan 5 (Irismetov 17, 73, Shatskikh pen 38, Kassymov 50, 67)
Oman 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

3rd qualifying rnd, 2nd legs

August 21

Barcelona (Spa) 1 (Luis Enrique 72)
Wisla Krakow (Pol) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 58,233. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Barcelona 5-3 on agg

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 3 (Neuville 13, 59, Kirsten 31)
Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Leverkusen 3-0 on agg

Kylv Dynamo (Ukr) 1 (Melaschenko 46)
Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 1 (Neaga 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,800. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Sent off: Baciu (Steaua) 51min
Dynamo 5-3 on agg

Lazio (Ita) 4 (Crespo 48, 63, Claudio Lopez 64, Fiore 90)
FC Copenhagen (Den) 1 (Zuma 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,133. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Lazio 5-3 on agg

Liverpool (Eng) 4 (Fowler 37, Redknapp 50, Heskey 57, Wilson og 83)
FC Haka (Fin) 1 (Kovacs 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 31,602. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Liverpool 9-1 on agg

Mallorca (Spa) 2 (Eto'o 25, Luque 92)
Hajduk Split (Cro) 0
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-0. **Att:** 23,500. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Mallorca 2-1 on agg

August 22

Anderlecht (Blg) 1 (De Boeck 82)
Halmstads (Swe) 1 (Jonsson 12)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Anderlecht 4-3 on agg

Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 3 (Koller 49, 68, Amoroso 64)
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1 (Aghahowa 7)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Dortmund 5-1 on agg

Celtic (Sco) 0
Ajax (Hol) 1 (Wamberto 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Celtic 3-2 on agg

Fenerbahce (Tur) 2 (Revivo 3, Serhat 71)
Rangers (Sco) 1 (Ricksen 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Fenerbahce 2-1 on agg

Grasshopper (Swi) 2 (Petric 77, Chapuisat 86)
FC Porto (Por) 3 (Clayton 13, Capucho 43, Deco 79)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
Sent off: Bouba (Grasshopper)
Porto 5-4 on agg

Levski Sofia (Bul) 1 (Pantelic 79)
Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Serkan 50)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Galatasaray 3-2 on agg

UEFA SUPERCUP

LIVERPOOL won their fifth trophy in six months when they beat Bayern Munich 3-2 in Monaco to claim the European Supercup, the annual fixture played between the Champions League and UEFA Cup winners.

Having won the English Charity Shield a fortnight earlier, Liverpool, winners of the League, FA and UEFA Cups last season, survived a late fightback by Bayern.

Michael Owen was deservedly named man of the match after he set up Liverpool's first goal, converted from close range by John Arne Riise, and scored the third goal within seconds of the restart.

Emile Heskey scored Liverpool's second with a wonderful turn of pace that left the Bayern defence trailing in his wake.

Hasan Salihamidzic pulled a goal back for Bayern on 57 minutes from a corner. Then, with eight minutes remaining, Carsten Jancker headed in from Giovane Elber's clever assist to set up a frantic finale.

But it was to be Liverpool's night.

Aug 24 - Monaco
Bayern Munich (Ger) 2 (Salihamidzic 57, Jancker 82)
Liverpool (Eng) 3 (Riise 23, Heskey 45, Owen 46)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Bayern: Kahn - R Kovac, Thiam, Linke - Sagnol, Hargreaves, Sforza (N Kovac 66), Salihamidzic (Santa Cruz 72), Lizarazu - Pizarro (Jancker 66), Elber.
Liverpool: Westerveld - Babbel, Henchoz, Hyypia, Carragher - Gerrard (Biscan 66), Hamann, McAllister, Riise (Murphy 69) - Owen (Fowler 83), Heskey.

Lille (Fra) 0
Parma (Ita) 1 (Sensini 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,358. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Lille 2-1 on agg

Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 (Basinas pen 26)
Slavia Prague (Cze) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Panathinaikos 3-1 on agg

Rosenborg (Nor) 4 (F Johnsen 11, Rushfeldt 15, Skammelsrud 42, Strand 84)
Inter Bratislava (Slk) 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
Rosenborg 7-3 on agg

***FC Tirol (Aut) 0**
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 1 (Maminov 51)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)
**Result annulled; referee erroneously booked Lokomotiv's Maminov instead of Pimenov – Pimenov had already been booked and therefore should have been sent off. 2nd leg replayed*

3rd qualifying rnd, 2nd leg replay

September 8

FC Tirol 1 (Brzeczek 30)
Lokomotiv Moscow 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,500. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Sent off: Hortnagl (Tirol) 64min
Lokomotiv 3-2 on agg

1st group phase

Group A

September 11

Lokomotiv Moscow 1 (Maminov 18)
Anderlecht 1 (Hendrikx 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,500. **Ref:** Hrinak (Slk)
Lokomotiv: Nigmatullin - Sennikov, Chugainov, Ignashevich - Obradovic, Drozdov, Maminov, Izmailov, Lekheto - Pimenov (Dzhanashia 75), Buznikin (Vucicevic 66).
Anderlecht: De Wilde - Pirard, Crasson, De Boeck, Ilic - Dindane (Seol 88), Hasi, Vanderhaeghe, Hendrikx - De Bilde (Stoica 77), Mornar (Van Hout 89).

Roma (Ita) 1 (Totti pen 73)
Real Madrid (Spa) 2 (Figo 50, Guti 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Roma: Pelizzoli - Zebina, Samuel, Zago - Cafu (Balbo 82), Emerson, Assuncao (Cassano 61), Candela - Totti - Batistuta, Montella (Lima 46).
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Karanka, Roberto Carlos - Figo, Makelele, Flavio Conceicao, McManaman - Raul, Guti (Ivan Campo 87).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Anderlecht	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lokomotiv M	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Roma	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Group B

September 11

Kyiv Dynamo 2 (Melaschenko 15, Idahor 45)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Koller 55, Amoroso 74)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Dynamo: Filimonov - Holovko (Fedorov 24), Vaschuk, Nesmachnyi - Khatskevich (Bodnar 63), Gavrancic, Bialkevich, Ghioane, Serebrennikov (Chernat 46) - Melaschenko, Idahor.
Dortmund: Lehmann - Evanilson, Worns, Kohler, Dede - Reuter, Ricksen, Oliseh (Stevic 54), Rosicky (Sorensen 83) - Koller, Amoroso (Bobic 81).

Liverpool 1 (Owen 29)
Boavista (Por) 1 (Silva 3)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,015. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Vignal - Murphy (Riise 71), Gerrard, Hamann, McAllister - Owen, Heskey.
Boavista: Ricardo - Frechaut, Paulo Turra, Pedro Emanuel, Erivan - Petit, Glauber, Sanchez (Pedro Santos 59) - Duda (Bosingwa 84), Goulart, Silva (Serginho 79).

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Kyiv Dynamo	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Boavista	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Liverpool	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

Group C

September 11

Mallorca 1 (Engonga pen 11)
Arsenal (Eng) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Mallorca: Leo Franco - Olaizola, Nadal, Nino, Miquel Soler - Campano, Marcos, Engonga (Vicente 66), Ibagaza (Novo 46) - Luque (Paunovic 76), Eto'o.
Arsenal: Seaman - Lauren, Keown, Campbell, Cole - Ljungberg (Jeffers 71), Vieira, Van Bronckhorst, Pires (Parlour 79) - Wiltord (Kanu 71), Henry. *Sent off: Cole 11min.*

Schalke (Ger) 0
Panathinaikos 2 (Vlaovic 75, Basinas 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 52,300. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Schalke: Reck - Hajto, Waldoch, Van Kerckhoven - Nemec, Oude Kamphuis, Van Hoogdalem (Djordjevic 78), Bohme (Asamoah 68), Moller (Wilmots 53) - Agali, Mpenza.
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Henriksen, Kyriakos, Fissas - Michaelsen (Vokolos 76), Basinas, Paulo Sousa, Kolkka (Vlaovic 68) - Karagounis, Constantinou (Saric 89).

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Mallorca	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Arsenal	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Schalke	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group D

September 11

Galatasaray 1 (Umit Karan 79)
Lazio 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Capone (Perez 71), Emre Asik, Bulent Korkmaz, Hakan Unsal - Umit Davala, Suat (Goktan 87), Ergun, Hasan Sas - Arif (Sergen 62), Umit Karan.
Lazio: Peruzzi - Stam, Nesta, Fernando Couto - Pancaro (Inzaghi 81), Mendieta (Stankovic 52), Simeone, Fiore, Favalli (Cesar 71) - Crespo, Claudio Lopez.

Nantes (Fra) 4 (Andre 5, Quint pen 10, Dalmat 43, Vahirua 75)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1 (De Jong 90)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)
Nantes: Landreau - Laspalles, Gillet, Fabbri, Armand - Savinaud (Berson 79), Olembe - Dalmat (Djemba 87), Ziani, Quint - Andre (Vahirua 70).
PSV: Wattereus - Wielaert, Nikiforov (Colin 57), Hofland, Heintze - Ramzi (Rommedahl 53), De Jong, Vogel, Bouma (Gakhokidze 75) - Kezman, Bruggink.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Galatasaray	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lazio	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
PSV Eindhoven	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

UEFA CUP

Qualifying rnd, 2nd legs

August 23

Apollon (Cyp) 3 (Miserdovski 57, Kavazis 60, Spoljaric 80)
SK Tirana (Alb) 1 (Fortuzi 26)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Supraha (Cro)
Sent off: Tafaj (Tirana) 78min
Apollon 5-4 on agg

BATE Borisov (Bls) 4 (Lisovsky 22, Kutuzov pen 44, Loshankov 48, Grigorov 90)
Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Ver Eecke (Blg)
Sent off: Burduli 24min, Grishikashvili 42min (both Dinamo)
BATE 5-2 on agg

Belshina Bobruisk (Bls) 0
Ruzomberok (Slk) 0
Att: 2,000. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
Ruzomberok 3-1 on agg

Brotnjo (Bos) 1 (Jerkovic 32)
Viking (Nor) 1 (Tihinen 29)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Rogallla (Swi)
Sent off: Milos (Brotnjo) 76min
Viking 2-1 on agg

CSKA Sofia (Bul) 3 (Manchev 33, 62, Giglio 67)
Shakhtyor Soligorsk (Bls) 1 (Bezborodov 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Peltola (Fin)
Sent off: Turdiev (Shakhtyor) 16min
CSKA 5-2 on agg

Dinamo Tirana (Alb) 1 (Dhembi 87)
Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 3 (Niculescu 20, Mihalcea 43, Dragan 76)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Szabo (Hun)
Dinamo Bucharest 4-1 on agg

Dunaferr (Hun) 2 (Sowunmi 46, Tokoli 59)
Olympiakos Nicosia (Cyp) 4 (Kozlej 25, Radosavliev 38, Themistocleous 57, Aristocleous 63)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Lazarevski (Mac)
Olympiakos 6-4 on agg

Elfsborg (Swe) 5 (Andreasson 27, 46, 79, Klarstrom 50, 54)
Trans Narva (Est) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)
Elfsborg 5-3 on agg

Flora Tallinn (Est) 0
Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 1 (Allas og 44)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ryszka (Pol)
Dinamo 2-0 on agg

Gaziantepspor (Tur) 4 (Fatih Tekke 2, Romashenko 30, Hasan Ozer 60, Mustafa 81)
Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 1 (Cebotari 44)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Juhos (Hun)
Gaziantepspor 4-1 on agg

Gi Gotu (Far) 1 (Jarnskor pen 33)
Obilic (Yug) 1 (Simonovic 19)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Feighery (Ire)
Obilic 5-1 on agg

Glentoran (NI) 0
Midtjylland (Den) 4 (Skoubo 13, 82, From 66, Pimpong 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,231. **Ref:** Sultani (Aze)
Sent off: Gough (Glentoran) 51min
Midtjylland 5-1 on agg

Gorica (Sln) 1 (Tezacki 80)
Neftchi Baku (Aze) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger)
Gorica 1-0 on agg

Grazer AK (Aut) 4 (Brunmayr 13, 30, Tokic 70, Milinkovic 90)
HB Torshavn (Far) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,245. **Ref:** Hovhannisyan (Arm)
Grazer 6-2 on agg

Grevenmacher (Lux) 0
AEK Athens (Gre) 2 (Lakis 26, Konstantinidis 54)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Lawlor (Wal)
AEK 8-0 on agg

Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 3 (Osterc 7, Domb 16, Udi 90)
Ararat Yerevan (Arm) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Shebek (Ukr)
Hapoel 5-0 on agg

Helsingborgs (Swe) 2 (Prica 44, Eklund 82)
MyPa (Fin) 1 (Puhakainen 25)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,738. **Ref:** Yakov (Isr)
Helsingborgs 5-2 on agg

IA Akranes (Ice) 1 (Karvelsson 3)
Club Brugge (Blg) 6 (Lembi 25, 55, Englebert 65, Van der Heyden 72, Mendoza 83, Martens 90)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Gilewski (Pol)
Brugge 10-1 on agg

Jokerit (Fin) 0
CSKA Kyiv (Ukr) 2 (Zakarlyuka 60, Kossyrin 82)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stanisic (Yug)
CSKA 4-0 on agg

Kilmarnock (Sco) 1 (Mitchell 66)
Glenavon (NI) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,454. **Ref:** Kovacic (Cro)
Kilmarnock 2-0 on agg

Legia Warsaw (Pol) 2 (Mierzejewski 43, Karwan 72)
Etzella Ettelbruck (Lux) 1 (Leweck 48)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Anghelini (Rom)
Legia 6-1 on agg

Litex Lovech (Bul) 2 (Jankovic 90, pen 90)
Longford Town (Ire) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Skjerven (Nor)
Lovech 3-1 on agg

Lokomotiv Tbilisi (Geo) 1 (Anchabadze 88)
Birkirkara (Mlt) 1 (Zahra 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Schaack (Lux)
Agg 1-1. Birkirkara on away goals

Mika Ashtarak (Arm) 0
Brasov (Rom) 2 (Sandor 38, Buga 89)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Alseth (Nor)
Brasov 7-1 on agg

Nistru Otaci (Mol) 1 (Samkov pen 54)
Debrecen (Hun) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Marczyk (Pol)
Debrecen 3-1 on agg

Osijek (Cro) 1 (Balatinac pen 45)
Dinaburg (Lat) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Khudiyev (Aze)
Agg 2-2. Osijek on away goals

Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 7 (Ivic 11, 60, Delibasic 21, Cakar 68, pen 86, Vukic 78, Iliev 90)
Santa Coloma (And) 1 (Ariaz pen 37)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Timofejev (Est)
Partizan 8-1 on agg

Pogon Szczecin (Pol) 1 (Dzwigala 6)
Fylkir (Ice) 1 (Jonsson 89)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kandare (Sln)
Fylkir 3-2 on agg

Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 8 (Nita 23, 82, Sumudica 29, pen 53, Schumacher 60, Bogdanovic 68, 89, Bratu 74)
Atlantas (Lit) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Bartolo Benquerenca (Por)
Sent off: Gaigalas (Atlantas) 89min
Rapid 12-0 on agg

Rapid Wien (Aut) 2 (Lagonikakis 30, 89)
Cosmos (SaM) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Papaioannou (Cyp)
Sent off: Celli (Cosmos)
Rapid 3-0 on agg

Sarajevo (Bos) 0
Maritimo (Por) 1 (Bruno 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Messner (Aut)
Maritimo 2-0 on agg

Shafa Baku (Aze) 0
Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) 3 (Kosic 29, Komar 70, Jolic 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Papadakos (Gre)
Olimpija 7-0 on agg

Shelbourne (Ire) 0
Brondby (Den) 3 (Bagger 11, Jorgensen 53, Madsen 78)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Kliuchnikov (Rus)
Brondby 5-0 on agg

Sliema Wanderers (Mlt) 2 (Busuttil 6, Said 78)
Matador Puchov (Slk) 1 (Pernis pen 60)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jareci (Alb)
Sent off: Satka 75min, Strba 84min (both Puchov); Ciantar (Sliema) 80min
Puchov 4-2 on agg

Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 1 (Meszaros 80)
Cwmbran Town (Wal) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,439. **Ref:** Malzinskas (Lit)
Slovan 5-0 on agg

St Gallen (Swi) 2 (Gane 57, 61)
Pelister (Mac) 3 (Dal Santo og 65, Deliovski 72, Stojmenovski 75)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Poulsen (Den)
St Gallen 4-3 on agg

Standard Liege (Blg) 3 (Lukunku 58, 68, Walem 60)
Vardar Skopje (Mac) 1 (Abazi 62)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Miezelis (Lit)
Sent off: Nacevski (Vardar) 70min
Standard 6-1 on agg

Total Network Solutions (Wal) 0
Polonia Warsaw (Pol) 2 (Bak 43, Bartczak 53)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tripkovic (Yug)
Polonia 6-0 on agg

Varteks (Cro) 6 (Mumlek pen 9, Bjelanovic 20, Andricevic 25, Drobne 71, 75, Rezic 86)
Vaduz (Lie) 1 (Merenda 50)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Altmayer (Rom)
Varteks 9-4 on agg

Ventspils (Lat) 0
HJK Helsinki (Fin) 1 (Roiha 8)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Jara (Cze)
HJK 3-1 on agg

Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit) 0
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 1 (Goldberg 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Byrne (Ire)
Maccabi 7-0 on agg

1st rnd, 1st legs

September 11

Gorica 1 (Gliha 58)
Osijek 2 (Turkovic 54, Besirevic 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,700. **Ref:** Sultanim (Aze)

Matador Puchov 0
Freiburg (Ger) 0
Att: 5,500. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)

Roda JC (Hol) 3 (Nygaard 27, Anastasiou 65, 70)
Fylkir 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Nalbandyan (Arm)

Troyes (Fra) 6 (Loko 20, 85, Boutal 27, 30, 58, Meniri 52)
Ruzomberok 1 (Kurty 77)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 6,011. **Ref:** Skjervold (Nor)

Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) 0
FC Tirol (Aut) 0
Att: 1,300. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)

INTERTOTO CUP

Finals, 2nd legs

Aug 21: Aston Villa (Eng) 4 (Vassell 45, Angel 55, 79, Ginola 83) Basle (Swi) 1 (Chipperfield 30) *Villa 5-2 on agg*; Brescia (Ita) 1 (Baggio pen 79) Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 1 (Aloisio 74) *Agg 1-1. PSG on away goals*; Newcastle United (Eng) 4 (Solano 2, Ameobi 65, Speed pen 69, Hughes 90) Troyes (Fra) 4 (Leroy 25, Gousse 28, Boutal 47, 61) *Agg 4-4. Troyes on away goals.*
Winners entered the UEFA Cup at the 1st rnd stage

AUSTRIA

Aug 18: Bregenz 2 Salzburg 2; Karnten 0 Austria Wien 0; Rapid Wien 0 FC Tirol 2; SV Ried 2 Admira 3.
Aug 19: Sturm Graz 2 Grazer AK 0.
Aug 25: Austria Wien 1 Bregenz 0; Sturm Graz 2 SV Ried 0; FC Tirol 3 Karnten 0.
Aug 26: Salzburg 2 Grazer AK 1; Admira 0 Rapid Wien 0.
Sep 8: Bregenz 2 Austria Wien 2; Grazer AK 1 Salzburg 1; Rapid Wien 0 Admira 1.
Sep 9: SV Ried 2 Sturm Graz 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	8	6	2	0	19	0	20
Sturm Graz	9	6	2	1	19	7	20
Grazer AK	10	4	3	3	19	11	15
Austria Wien	10	3	5	2	15	13	14
Salzburg	10	3	4	3	10	10	13
SV Ried	10	2	5	3	17	17	11
Rapid Wien	10	3	2	5	10	16	11
Karnten	9	3	2	4	8	15	11
Admira	10	2	1	7	8	21	7
Bregenz	10	1	4	5	7	22	7

BELGIUM

Friday, August 17

Mouscron 0
Gent 1 (Nielsen 29) Att: 9,500

Saturday, August 18

Beveren 1 (Wostijn 78)
Lierse 1 (De Roeck 24) Att: 5,000

La Louviere 1 (Ouedec 27)
Anderlecht 3 (Turaci og 12, Dindane 57, Iachtchouk 71) Att: 10,000

Royal Antwerp 3 (Pinxten 28, Verbeeck 35, Mussa 78)
Genk 0 Att: 6,000

RWDM 0
Charleroi 1 (Rojas 80) Att: 4,500

St Truiden 4 (Mbonabucya 26, 89, Boffin 65, Mitrovic 90)
Lommel 3 (Dekelver 19, Waligora 34, Tankary 47) Att: 8,000

Standard 3 (Lukunku 2, pen 30, 55)
Germinal BA 0 Att: 8,500

Westerlo 0
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Aelbrecht 59) Att: 3,000

Sunday, August 19

Lokeren 0
Club Brugge 1 (Mendoza 6) Att: 8,500

Saturday, August 25

Charleroi 0
St Truiden 3 (Mbonabucya 43, Boffin 49, 76) Att: 9,043

Gent 4 (Vanic 15, Nielsen 16, 56, 87)
Westerlo 1 (Vanic og 86) Att: 7,400

Lierse 2 (Leen 43, Sikimic 87)
Royal Antwerp 1 (Mussa 47) Att: 8,000

Lommel 3 (Mennes 24, Baranyos 26, Culek 88)
Mouscron 2 (Marcin Zewlakow 38, De Vleeschauwer 55) Att: 6,000

Sunday, August 26

Club Brugge 6 (Clement 5, 30, Verheyen 36, Mendoza 80, 89, Lange 90)
Beveren 1 (Van Rumst 40) Att: 16,721

Eendracht Aalst 2 (Dimbala 16, Aelbrecht 55)
Lokeren 1 (De Beule 70) Att: 3,800

Genk 5 (Thijs 6, Dagano 19, Sonck 53, 66, 87)
La Louviere 1 (Thans 48) Att: 18,169

Germinal BA 1 (Snelders 89)
Anderlecht 1 (Mornar 74) Att: 10,000

Standard 2 (Goossens 35, 38)
RWDM 1 (Kolotilko 23) Att: 8,500

Friday, September 7

Mouscron 0
Charleroi 1 (Rojas 19) Att: 10,000

Saturday, September 8

Anderlecht 3 (Van Hout 13, Hendrikx 62, Vanderhaeghe 76)
Genk 3 (Dagano 6, 31, Thijs pen 81) Att: 24,215

Beveren 0
Eendracht Aalst 4 (Bridji 13, Stojak 74, 80, Dimbala 84) Att: 9,650

La Louviere 0
Lierse 0 Att: 11,120

St Truiden 1 (Mbonabucya 1)
Standard 1 (Ernst 65) Att: 8,235

Westerlo 6 (Pelic 10, pen 48, 56, Vandenbergh 58, Severeyns 84, Serneels 87)
Lommel 0 Att: 7,290

Sunday, September 9

Lokeren 0
Gent 1 (Kaklamanos 78) Att: 6,000

Royal Antwerp 1 (Goots 24)
Club Brugge 2 (Lange 65, 77) Att: 9,000

RWDM 2 (Fassotte pen 35, Kolotilko 72)
Germinal BA 2 (Kpaka 15, Huysmans 69) Att: 5,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
Gent	4	4	0	0	10	3	12
Eendracht Aalst	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
Anderlecht	4	2	2	0	10	5	8
Standard	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Genk	4	2	1	1	13	8	7
St Truiden	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
Charleroi	4	2	1	1	2	3	7
Lierse	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Lommel	4	2	0	2	7	12	6
Germinal BA	4	1	2	1	11	8	5
Westerlo	4	1	0	3	9	9	3
Royal Antwerp	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
RWDM	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Lokeren	4	0	1	3	2	5	1
La Louviere	4	0	1	3	4	16	1
Beveren	4	0	1	3	3	16	1
Mouscron	4	0	0	4	2	6	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Wesley Sonck (Genk)
5 Dirk Huysmans (Germinal BA)
5 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)
5 Desire Mbonabucya (St Truiden)

BULGARIA

Aug 17: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Slavia 0.
Aug 18: Cherno More 2 Beroe 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 3 Spartak Pleven 0; Belasitsa 0 Marek 1; Neftohimik 4 Chernomorets 1; CSKA 5 Spartak Varna 1.
Aug 25: Beroe 1 Spartak Varna 0; Spartak Pleven 3 Belasitsa 2; Chernomorets 0 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Slavia 2 Neftohimik 2; Levski 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0.
Aug 26: Cherno More 4 Lovech 0; Marek 0 CSKA 1.
Sep 7: Lovech 3 Beroe 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Slavia 0.
Sep 8: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Cherno More 1; Belasitsa 3 Chernomorets 0; Spartak Varna 4 Marek 1; CSKA 3 Spartak Pleven 2; Neftohimik 1 Levski 1.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	5	4	1	0	12	3	13
Neftohimik	5	3	2	0	12	5	11
Lok Sofia	5	3	2	0	7	0	11
Levski	4	3	1	0	5	1	10
Lok Plovdiv	5	3	1	1	7	6	10
Spartak Varna	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
Lovech	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Cherno More	5	2	0	3	7	4	6
Slavia	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Belasitsa	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Spartak Pleven	5	1	0	4	6	12	3
Beroe	5	1	0	4	2	9	3
Marek	5	1	0	4	3	11	3
Chernomorets	5	0	2	3	4	13	2

CROATIA

Aug 17: Hajduk 1 Varteks 5.
Aug 18: Cakovec 2 Cibalia 2; Hrvatski drag 3 TSK 2; Slaven 1 Marsonia 0; Osijek 1 Pomorac 0; Dinamo 2 Sibenik 0.
Aug 19: Kamen Ingrad 1 Zadar 1; Rijeka 0 Zagreb 1.
Aug 25: Cibalia 1 Kamen Ingrad 0.
Aug 26: TSK 4 Slaven 1; Zagreb 3 Osijek 1; Marsonia 1 Hajduk 2; Zadar 2 Hrvatski drag 0; Pomorac 1 Dinamo 2; Varteks 2 Rijeka 0; Sibenik 1 Cakovec 0.
Sep 8: Cakovec 0 Pomorac 0; Hajduk 4 TSK 0; Zagreb 5 Varteks 2; Slaven 2 Zadar 1.
Sep 9: Hrvatski drag 2 Cibalia 1; Kamen Ingrad 1 Sibenik 1; Rijeka 1 Marsonia 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb	6	5	1	0	15	5	16
Varteks	6	4	1	1	15	8	13
Dinamo	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
Zadar	6	2	3	1	9	5	9
Hajduk	5	3	0	2	11	8	9
Rijeka	6	3	0	3	7	7	9
Pomorac	6	2	2	2	6	5	8
Cakovec	6	2	2	2	7	9	8
Cibalia	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Slaven	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Hrvatski drag	6	2	1	3	6	11	7
Osijek	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
Marsonia	6	1	1	4	6	8	4
Kamen Ingrad	6	0	4	2	6	9	4
TSK	6	1	1	4	10	15	4
Sibenik	6	1	1	4	3	9	4

CZECH REPUBLIC

Aug 18: Slavia 3 Ostrava 2.
Aug 19: Hradec Kralove 2 Liberec 0; Pribram 3 Chmel Blsany 1; Olomouc 1 Synot 1; Zizkov 2 Bohemians 0; Drnovice 1 Brno 0; Jablonec 0 Teplice 0.
Aug 20: Opava 1 Sparta 2.
Aug 25: Teplice 1 Slavia 2; Sparta 1 Pribram 0.
Aug 26: Ostrava 1 Hradec Kralove 0; Brno 2 Jablonec 0; Bohemians 1 Drnovice 0; Synot 0 Zizkov 1; Chmel Blsany 3 Olomouc 1; Liberec 1 Opava 1.
Sep 7: Olomouc 0 Sparta 3.
Sep 8: Zizkov 2 Chmel Blsany 2; Ostrava 0 Teplice 2.
Sep 9: Drnovice 1 Synot 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Opava 0; Pribram 1 Liberec 1; Jablonec 0 Bohemians 0; Slavia 1 Brno 1.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zizkov	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
Bohemians	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
Slavia	6	4	1	1	15	10	13
Sparta	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
Ostrava	6	4	0	2	10	7	12
Liberec	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Chmel Blsany	6	3	1	2	13	10	10
Jablonec	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Brno	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Synot	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Drnovice	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Hradec Kralove	6	2	0	4	5	15	6
Olomouc	6	1	2	3	3	9	5
Teplice	6	1	1	4	3	8	4
Pribram	6	1	1	4	6	12	4
Opava	6	0	1	5	5	13	1

DENMARK

Aug 17: FC Copenhagen 0 AB 2.
Aug 19: AGF 0 OB 1; Midtjylland 0 Lyngby 0; Viborg 1 Vejle 2; Brondby 4 Silkeborg 0.
Aug 20: AaB 2 Esbjerg 1.
Aug 26: OB 0 Midtjylland 2; AB 0 AGF 0; Esbjerg 0 Brondby 7; Vejle 1 AaB 3; Lyngby 2 Viborg 2; Silkeborg 0 FC Copenhagen 2.
Sep 9: FC Copenhagen 1 OB 1; AB 3 Lyngby 1; Midtjylland 0 Esbjerg 2; AaB 1 Brondby 3; Viborg 2 Silkeborg 0.
Sep 10: AGF 3 Vejle 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	7	6	0	1	24	3	18
AaB	7	5	0	2	13	9	15
FC Copenhagen	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
AB	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
Lyngby	7	2	4	1	8	7	10
Viborg	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
Midtjylland	7	2	3	2	5	5	9
Vejle	7	2	2	3	10	14	8
OB	6	2	1	3	5	8	7
Esbjerg	6	2	1	3	6	13	7
AGF	7	1	2	4	4	10	5
Silkeborg	7	0	2	5	2	15	2

ENGLAND

Saturday, August 18

Charlton 1 (Johansson 58)
Everton 2 (Ferguson pen 64, Weir 77) Att: 20,451

Derby 2 (Ravanelli 45, Christie 65)
Blackburn 1 (Blake 73) Att: 28,236

Leeds 2 (Bowyer 67, Smith 81)
Southampton 0 Att: 39,715

Leicester 0
Bolton 5 (Nolan 15, 41, Ricketts 33, Frandsen 45, 83) Att: 19,987

Liverpool 2 (Owen 18, 77)
West Ham 1 (Di Canio pen 30) Att: 43,935

Middlesbrough 0
Arsenal 4 (Henry 43, Pires pen 87, Bergkamp 88, 90) Att: 31,557

Sunderland 1 (Phillips pen 38)
Ipswich 0 Att: 47,370

Tottenham 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 36,059

Sunday, August 19

Chelsea 1 (Zenden 8)
Newcastle 1 (Acuna 77) Att: 40,124

Man Utd 3 (Beckham 35, Van Nistelrooy 51, 53)
Fulham 2 (Saha 4, 48) Att: 67,534

Monday, August 20

Everton 1 (Ferguson pen 63)
Tottenham 1 (Anderton 45) Att: 29,503

Tuesday, August 21

Arsenal 1 (Wiltord 32)
Leeds 2 (Harte 29, Viduka 53) Att: 38,062

Bolton 1 (Ricketts 39)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 20,747

Ipswich 3 (George 14, 76, Naylor 48)
Derby 1 (Ravanelli 84) Att: 21,197

Wednesday, August 22

Blackburn 2 (Beckham og 49, Gillespie 69)
Man Utd 2 (Giggs 20, Beckham 78) Att: 29,836

Fulham 2 (Hayles 70, Saha 85)
Sunderland 0 Att: 20,197

Saturday, August 25

Arsenal 4 (Ljungberg 17, Wiltord 28, Henry 77, Kanu 90)
Leicester 0 Att: 37,909

Blackburn 2 (Mahon 7, Duff 71)
Tottenham 1 (Ziege 90) Att: 24,992

Everton 2 (Campbell 17, Gemmill 52)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 32,829

Fulham 0
Derby 0 Att: 15,641

Ipswich 0
Charlton 1 (Lisbie 85) Att: 22,804

Southampton 0
Chelsea 2 (Hasselbaink 33, Stanic 90) Att: 31,107

West Ham 0
Leeds 0 Att: 24,517

Sunday, August 26

Aston Villa 1 (Vassell 4)
Man Utd 1 (Alpay og 90) Att: 42,632

Newcastle 1 (Bellamy 43)
Sunderland 1 (Phillips 34) Att: 52,021

Monday, August 27

Bolton 2 (Ricketts 26, Holdsworth 89)
Liverpool 1 (Heskey 66) Att 27,205

Saturday, September 8

Chelsea 1 (Hasselbaink pen 30)
Arsenal 1 (Henry 16) Att: 40,855

Derby 0
West Ham 0 Att: 27,802

Leeds 0
Bolton 0 Att: 40,153

Leicester 1 (Sturridge 90)
Ipswich 1 (Stewart 13) Att: 18,774

Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 46)
Aston Villa 3 (Dublin 31, Hendrie 55, Vassell 86) Att: 44,102

Man Utd 4 (Veron 21, Cole 40, Fortune 46, Beckham 90)
Everton 1 (Campbell 68) Att: 67,534

Middlesbrough 1 (Cooper 3)
Newcastle 4 (Shearer pen 34, 77, Dabizas 60, Robert 62) Att: 30,004

Sunderland 1 (Quinn 81)
Blackburn 0 Att: 45,103

Sunday, September 9

Charlton 1 (Melville og 34)
Fulham 1 (Boa Morte 37) Att: 20,451

Tottenham 2 (Ziege 76, Davies 87)
Southampton 0 Att: 33,668

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	4	3	1	0	8	1	10
Man Utd	4	2	2	0	10	6	8
Leeds	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
Arsenal	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
Everton	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
Sunderland	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
Newcastle	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Aston Villa	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Chelsea	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Fulham	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Tottenham	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
Derby	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Ipswich	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Charlton	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Blackburn	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Liverpool	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
West Ham	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Leicester	3	0	1	2	1	10	1
Southampton	3	0	0	3	0	6	0
Middlesbrough	4	0	0	4	1	11	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
3 David Beckham (Man Utd)
3 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
3 Michael Ricketts (Bolton)
3 Louis Saha (Fulham)

FRANCE

Saturday, August 18

Lille 2 (Benoit Cheyrou 89, Bakari 90)
Montpellier 1 (Maoulida 77) Att: 16,425

Lyon 3 (Anderson pen 8, Nee 85, Foe 90)
Guingamp 0 Att: 35,807

Marseille 0
Troyes 1 (Gousse 58) Att: 55,000

Metz 0
Lens 1 (Diouf 41) Att: 23,243

Monaco 2 (Nonda 38, Giuly 54)
Paris SG 2 (Dehu 67, Aloisio 74) Att: 15,000

Nantes 1 (Moldovan 24)
Bastia 2 (Essien 15, Dieuze 30) Att: 32,000

Rennes 1 (Monterrubio 67)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 18,000

Sochaux 2 (Meriem 16, Trapasso 25)
Lorient 2 (Darcheville 52, 65) Att: 15,223

Sunday, August 19

Auxerre 2 (Kapo 13, Cisse 90)
Sedan 1 (Camara 77) Att: 13,000

Saturday, August 25

Bastia 1 (Beneforti 35)
Marseille 0 Att: 11,460

Bordeaux 1 (Pauleta 26)
Auxerre 1 (Lachuer 64) Att: 28,254

Guingamp 1 (Carnot 26)
Nantes 0 Att: 14,889

Lorient 2 (Druon 17, Darcheville 28)
Monaco 0 Att: 12,730

Montpellier 0
Sochaux 0 Att: 12,560

Paris SG 3 (Okocha 62, Mendy 79, Aloisio 84)
Rennes 0 Att: 40,756

Sedan 2 (Brogno pen 75, Camara 90)
Metz 0 Att: 14,421

Troyes 0
Lyon 2 (Marlet 45, Delmotte 90) Att: 14,631

Sunday, August 26

Lens 1 (Sakho 60)
Lille 1 (Bakari 86) Att: 40,000

Saturday, September 8

Auxerre 1 (Fadiga 86)
Montpellier 0 Att:10,000

Lille 1 (Bruno Cheyrou 57)
Guingamp 0 Att: 16,000

Marseille 0
Lyon 0 Att: 55,000

Metz 0
Bastia 1 (Deblock 20) Att: 15,252

Monaco 2 (Nonda 37, Bierhoff 50)
Troyes 0 Att: 5,000

Nantes 1 (Andre 62)
Sedan 1 (N'Diefi 59) Att: 25,000

Paris SG 2 (Anelka 68, Alex 70)
Lens 2 (Pedron 17, Diouf 50) Att: 43,930

Rennes 1 (Chapuis 57)
Lorient 1 (Bouard 77) Att: 19,550

Sunday, September 9

Sochaux 2 (Frau 40, Pagis 75)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 18,124

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auxerre	6	4	2	0	11	3	14
Lens	6	4	2	0	10	4	14
Lyon	6	4	1	1	9	3	13
Lille	6	3	3	0	7	3	12
Sochaux	6	3	2	1	9	6	11
Paris SG	6	2	4	0	9	5	10
Bastia	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Lorient	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Troyes	6	2	1	3	5	6	7
Rennes	6	2	1	3	8	13	7
Guingamp	6	2	1	3	3	8	7
Montpellier	6	1	3	2	5	4	6
Sedan	6	1	3	2	6	7	6
Bordeaux	6	1	3	2	3	4	6
Monaco	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Marseille	6	0	3	3	1	5	3
Metz	6	1	0	5	2	9	3
Nantes	6	0	2	4	3	8	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Djibril Cisse (Auxerre)
5 Olivier Monterrubio (Rennes)
4 Bruno Cheyrou (Lille)
4 Jean-Claude Darcheville (Lorient)

GERMANY

Saturday, August 18

Bayern Munich 2 (Sforza 13, Elber 45)
St Pauli 0 Att: 60,000

Hamburg 2 (Hoogma 56, Meijer 64)
Kaiserslautern 3 (Lincoln 18, 22, Strasser 28) Att: 42,073

Hansa Rostock 0
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Rosicky 4, Oliseh 13) Att: 27,000

Nurnberg 2 (Nikl 38, Wenzel og 49)
Stuttgart 4 (Ganea 4, 61, Todt 57, Adhemar 88) Att: 40,000

Schalke 3 (Hajto 9, Bohme pen 39, Mpenza 80)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Ballack 58, Kirsten 73, Schneider 90) Att: 60,204

Werder Bremen 1 (Herzog pen 34)
1860 Munich 3 (Borimirov 30, Agostino 38, Schroth 59) Att: 25,725

Wolfsburg 1 (Munteanu 67)
Freiburg 1 (Sellimi 37) Att: 11,766

Sunday, August 19

Hertha 2 (Marcelinho 26, Preetz 90)
Energie Cottbus 3 (Da Silva 56, Kobylanski 64, Brasilia 80) Att: 40,000

Koln 0
Borussia MG 2 (Korzynietz 47, Van Lent 90) Att: 42,000

Tuesday, August 21

Schalke 3 (Jakobsson og 9, Agali 60, Bohme pen 90)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Schroder 44) Att: 60,204

Saturday, September 8

Borussia Dortmund 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Salihamidzic 22, Santa Cruz 58) Att: 68,600

Borussia MG 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Butt pen 2) Att: 30,184

Energie Cottbus 3 (Kaluzny 2, Da Silva 45, 49)
Wolfsburg 3 (Juskowiak 31, Petkovic 43, Kennedy 77) Att: 14,442

Freiburg 1 (Benken og 56)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Di Salvo 81) Att: 24,500

1860 Munich 1 (Riseth 75)
Nurnberg 0 Att: 40,200

St Pauli 0
Schalke 2 (Agali 35, 77) Att: 20,725

Stuttgart 0
Hertha 0 Att: 22,500

Sunday, September 9

Kaiserslautern 2 (Ramzy 64, Klose 70)
Werder Bremen 1 (Banovic 14) Att: 36,763

Koln 2 (Lottner 67, 90)
Hamburg 1 (Cullmann og 21) Att: 35,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	5	5	0	0	14	6	15
B Dortmund	5	4	0	1	10	2	12
B Leverkusen	5	3	2	0	10	5	11
Bayern Munich	5	3	1	1	8	2	10
Energie Cottbus	5	3	1	1	10	8	10
Schalke	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Borussia MG	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Koln	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
1860 Munich	5	2	1	2	5	8	7
Stuttgart	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Freiburg	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Hertha	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Hamburg	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
Werder Bremen	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Hansa Rostock	5	1	1	3	3	9	4
Nurnberg	5	1	0	4	4	8	3
Wolfsburg	5	0	3	2	6	11	3
St Pauli	5	0	2	3	1	6	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
4 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
4 Arie Van Lent (Borussia MG)
3 Victor Agali (Schalke)
3 Vragel Da Silva (Energie Cottbus)

HOLLAND

Friday, August 17

Twente 1 (Van der Laan 7)
RKC 0 Att: 13,250

Saturday, August 18

De Graafschap 3 (Meerdink 6, Schulp 24, Promes 88)
AZ 0 Att: 10,800

Den Bosch 0
Heerenveen 0 Att: 4,251

Groningen 2 (Broerse 6, Hugo 57)
PSV 2 (Kezman pen 69, Vennegoor of Hesselink 86) Att: 12,850

NAC 1 (Salmon 73)
Utrecht 0 Att: 13,126

Sunday, August 19

Ajax 1 (Van der Vaart 83)
Roda JC 1 (Nygaard 79) Att: 33,116

Feyenoord 5 (Tomasson 11, 87, 90, Emerton 23, Bosvelt 55)
Sparta 0 Att: 43,396

Fortuna 0
Vitesse 0 Att: 10,000

Willem II 3 (Janssens 5, Landzaat 23, Abdellaoui 32)
NEC 1 (Wisgerhof 59) Att: 12,754

Tuesday, August 21

NAC 3 (Stewart 26, 63, Hersi 72)
Twente 3 (Houwing 64, 82, Booth 71) Att: 11,704

Wednesday, August 22

Fortuna 2 (Gerritsen 24, Van Dieren 41)
De Graafschap 1 (Schulp 76) Att: 6,000

Groningen 1 (Schoenmakers 21)
William II 0 Att: 11,005

NEC 1 (Hristov 30)
RKC 0 Att: 9,000

PSV 3 (Kezman pen 45, Bruggink 71, Van Bommel 84)
Den Bosch 2 (Mghizrat 30, Maximiano 54) Att: 31,000

Roda JC 0
Feyenoord 2 (Van Hooijdonk 27, 87) Att: 12,000

Sparta 3 (Boukhari 30, 45, 89)
Utrecht 1 (Tanghe 85) Att: 5,000

Vitesse 1 (Mustapha 49)
AZ 0 Att: 23,500

Friday, August 24

Heerenveen 5 (Lurling 14, 84, Allback 38, Talan 64, Denneboom 77)
NAC 0 Att: 14,300

Saturday, August 25

AZ 3 (Nelisse pen 3, Huiberts 58, 72)
Sparta 0 Att: 6,057

De Graafschap 1 (Schulp 40)
NEC 1 (Demouge 88) Att: 10,250

Twente 3 (Van der Laan 30, De Witte 40, Pothuizen 77)
Roda JC 0 Att: 13,200

Vitesse 1 (Zwaanswijk og 80)
Utrecht 0 Att: 24,000

Willem II 3 (Bombarda 27, 52, Mathijsen 64)
PSV 1 (Kezman 71) Att: 14,500

Sunday, August 26

Den Bosch 4 (Michels 23, Van der Hoorn 45, Mghizrat 48, 81)
Fortuna 0 Att: 4,725

Feyenoord 1 (Tomasson 90)
Ajax 2 (Ibrahimovic 64, Van der Vaart 82) Att: 42,000

RKC 4 (Gudjonsson 14, pen 32, Hoogendorp pen 39, Cornelisse 42)
Groningen 0 Att: 5,550

Friday, September 7

Heerenveen 1 (Jensen 32)
Vitesse 1 (Van der Schaaf 85) Att: 14,300

Saturday, September 8

AZ 2 (El Khattabi 66, 69)
NAC 1 (Hersi 71) Att: 6,940

NEC 0
Feyenoord 3 (Kalou 21, Tomasson 48, 90) Att: 12,300

PSV 3 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 52, 73, De Jong 79)
Fortuna 0 Att: 3,000

Roda JC 0
De Graafschap 1 (Turpijn 54) Att: 9,000

Twente 0
Ajax 2 (Ibrahimovic 20, Wamberto 87) Att: 13,250

Sunday, September 9

Sparta 0
RKC 0 Att: 5,500

Utrecht 3 (De Jong 12, Kuijt pen 71, Van den Bergh 84)
Groningen 1 (Tuhuteru 30) Att: 13,500

Willem II 1 (Landzaat pen 23)
Den Bosch 1 (De Freitas 62) Att: 13,500

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	4	3	0	1	11	2	9
Vitesse	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
Willem II	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
De Graafschap	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Ajax	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
PSV	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Twente	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
AZ	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Heerenveen	3	1	2	0	6	1	5
Den Bosch	4	1	2	1	7	4	5
RKC	4	1	1	2	4	2	4
NEC	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
NAC	4	1	1	2	5	10	4
Groningen	4	1	1	2	4	9	4
Sparta	4	1	1	2	3	9	4
Fortuna	4	1	1	2	2	8	4
Utrecht	4	1	0	3	4	6	3
Roda JC	4	0	1	3	1	7	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)
3 Nourdin Boukhari (Sparta)
3 Mateja Kezman (PSV)
3 Mourad Mghizrat (Den Bosch)
3 Dennis Schulp (De Graafschap)
3 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)

HUNGARY

Aug 17: Videoton 3 Vasas 2.
Aug 18: Dunaferr 0 Ferencvaros 1; Matav 4 Gyor 0; Haladas 1 Debrecen 1; Kispest-Honved 0 Zalaegerszeg 2.
Aug 19: Ujpest 1 MTK 3.
Aug 24: Ferencvaros 3 Haladas 1.
Aug 25: Gyor 0 Videoton 0; Zalaegerszeg 0 Ujpest 3; MTK 4 Matav 0.
Aug 26: Vasas 2 Dunaferr 1; Debrecen 2 Kispest-Honved 2.
Sep 7: Haladas 1 Vasas 0.
Sep 8: Ferencvaros 0 Debrecen 1; Dunaferr 0 Gyor 0; Matav 3 Zalaegerszeg 2; Ujpest 7 Kispest-Honved 2.
Sep 9: Videoton 0 MTK 0.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	8	6	1	1	17	4	19
Zalaegerszeg	8	5	1	2	13	8	16
Ferencvaros	8	5	0	3	12	6	15
Haladas	8	4	2	2	9	7	14
Videoton	8	4	2	2	6	8	14
Ujpest	8	3	2	3	19	13	11
Dunaferr	8	3	2	3	11	8	11
Matav	8	3	1	4	13	13	10
Debrecen	8	2	3	3	6	12	9
Kispest-Honved	8	2	1	5	9	22	7
Gyor	8	1	3	4	7	11	6
Vasas	8	1	0	7	8	18	3

ITALY

Saturday, August 25

Bologna 1 (Signori 19)
Atalanta 0 Att: 22,070

Sunday, August 26

Brescia 2 (Tare 36, 41)
Milan 2 (Brocchi 50, Shevchenko pen 63) Att: 19,000

Fiorentina 0
Chievo 2 (Perrotta 6, Marazzina 55) Att: 15,050

Inter 4 (Kallon 21, 45, Vieri pen 90, 90)
Perugia 1 (Vryzas 66) Att: 59,911

Juventus 4 (Trezeguet 10, 11, Del Piero 44, 80)
Venezia 0 Att: 35,817

Lazio 1 (Claudio Lopez 48)
Piacenza 1 (Matuzalem 61) Att: 36,367

Lecce 1 (Chevanton 2)
Parma 1 (Di Vaio 71) Att: 22,157

Udinese 2 (Muzzi 61, Pavon 65)
Torino 2 (Galante 11, Osmanovski 43) Att: 16,108

Verona 1 (Oddo 76)
Roma 1 (Samuel 45) Att: 22,249

Saturday, September 8

Perugia 0
Lazio 0 Att: 13,000

Roma 1 (Tommasi 65)
Udinese 1 (Muzzi 90) Att: 60,000

Sunday, September 9

Atalanta 0
Juventus 2 (Del Piero 9, Trezeguet 83) Att: 26,000

Chievo 2 (Corradi 13, Cossato 84)
Bologna 0 Att: 9,852

Milan 5 (Shevchenko 16, 51, Laursen 39, Inzaghi 45, Serginho 78)
Fiorentina 2 (Chiesa 19, 59) Att: 70,000

Parma 2 (Milosevic 27, Bonazzoli 85)
Inter 2 (Materazzi 11, Ventola 28) Att: 27,000

Piacenza 1 (Gautieri 45)
Lecce 2 (Giacomazzi 66, 85) Att: 8,000

Torino 1 (Lucarelli 30)
Brescia 3 (Tare 9, 69, Baggio pen 89) Att: 7,000

Venezia 0
Verona 1 (Salvetti 67) Att: 9,133

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Chievo	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Milan	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
Inter	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Brescia	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Verona	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Lecce	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Bologna	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Parma	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Udinese	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Roma	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Lazio	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Piacenza	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Torino	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Perugia	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Atalanta	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Fiorentina	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Venezia	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
4 Igli Tare (Brescia)
3 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
3 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
3 David Trezeguet (Juventus)

SUPER CUP

Aug 19 - Rome
Roma 3 (Candela 6, Montella 55, Totti 82)
Fiorentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 61,050. **Ref:** Cesari

NORWAY

Aug 18: Rosenborg 3 Bryne 1.
Aug 19: Bodo/Glimt 1 Lillestrom 2; Brann 3 Odd Grenland 1; Molde 3 Stromsgodset 0; Moss 3 Tromso 1; Stabaek 2 Lyn 5; Viking 2 Sogndal 0.
Aug 24: Tromso 1 Bodo/Glimt 1.
Aug 26: Bryne 1 Moss 4; Lillestrom 2 Stabaek 1; Lyn 3 Brann 2; Odd Grenland 0 Viking 1; Sogndal 3 Molde 4; Stromsgodset 2 Rosenborg 5.
Sep 8: Rosenborg 3 Sogndal 1.
Sep 9: Bodo/Glimt 2 Stabaek 2; Molde 6 Odd Grenland 1; Moss 1 Stromsgodset 1; Tromso 2 Bryne 2; Viking 2 Lyn 0; Brann 1 Lillestrom 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	21	14	5	2	61	25	47
Viking	21	13	5	3	39	21	44
Lillestrom	20	13	4	3	49	26	43
Brann	21	11	5	5	56	34	38
Molde	21	11	4	6	49	35	37
Stabaek	21	11	2	8	39	35	35
Odd Grenland	20	9	4	7	37	32	31
Moss	21	8	2	11	30	38	26
Lyn	21	5	7	9	35	39	22
Sogndal	21	6	4	11	33	50	22
Bodo/Glimt	21	4	8	9	31	39	20
Stromsgodset	21	3	7	11	34	62	16
Tromso	21	4	2	15	18	43	14
Bryne	21	3	3	15	22	54	12

POLAND

Group A

Aug 18: Widzew 1 Gornik 2; Zaglebie 1 Polonia 1; Katowice 2 KSZO 2.
Aug 19: Wisla 1 Odra 0.
Aug 25: KSZO 3 Widzew 0; Gornik 1 Katowice 1.
Aug 26: Polonia 2 Odra 2; Wisla 4 Zaglebie 0.
Sep 8: Zaglebie 3 Gornik 1; Widzew 0 Polonia 3; Katowice 1 Wisla 5.
Sep 9: Odra 2 KSZO 1.
Sep 11: Katowice 0 Widzew 1.

Continued on page 44

Champions League 2001-02

First group phase - schedule

Top two from each group qualify for second group phase

Group A

ANDERLECHT (Blg)
LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW (Rus)
REAL MADRID (Spa)
ROMA (Ita)

Tue, September 11, 2001
Lokomotiv Moscow v Anderlecht
Roma v Real Madrid

Wed, September 19
Anderlecht v Roma
Real Madrid v Lokomotiv Moscow

Wed, September 26
Real Madrid v Anderlecht
Roma v Lokomotiv Moscow

Tue, October 16
Anderlecht v Real Madrid
Lokomotiv Moscow v Roma

Wed, October 24
Anderlecht v Lokomotiv Moscow
Real Madrid v Roma

Tue, October 30
Lokomotiv Moscow v Real Madrid
Roma v Anderlecht

Group B

BOAVISTA (Por)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND (Ger)
KYIV DYNAMO (Ukr)
LIVERPOOL (Eng)

Tue, September 11, 2001
Kyiv Dynamo v Borussia Dortmund
Liverpool v Boavista

Wed, September 19
Boavista v Kyiv Dynamo
Borussia Dortmund v Liverpool

Wed, September 26
Boavista v Borussia Dortmund
Liverpool v Kyiv Dynamo

Tue, October 16
Borussia Dortmund v Boavista
Kyiv Dynamo v Liverpool

Wed, October 24
Boavista v Liverpool
Borussia Dortmund v Kyiv Dynamo

Tue, October 30
Kyiv Dynamo v Boavista
Liverpool v Borussia Dortmund

Group C

ARSENAL (Eng)
MALLORCA (Spa)
PANATHINAIKOS (Gre)
SCHALKE (Ger)

Tue, September 11, 2001
Mallorca v Arsenal
Schalke v Panathinaikos

Wed, September 19
Arsenal v Schalke
Panathinaikos v Mallorca

Wed, September 26
Panathinaikos v Arsenal
Schalke v Mallorca

Tue, October 16
Arsenal v Panathinaikos
Mallorca v Schalke

Wed, October 24
Arsenal v Mallorca
Panathinaikos v Schalke

Tue, October 30
Mallorca v Panathinaikos
Schalke v Arsenal

Group D

GALATASARAY (Tur)
LAZIO (Ita)
NANTES (Fra)
PSV EINDHOVEN (Hol)

Tue, September 11, 2001
Galatasaray v Lazio
Nantes v PSV Eindhoven

Wed, September 19
Lazio v Nantes
PSV Eindhoven v Galatasaray

Wed, September 26
Nantes v Galatasaray
PSV Eindhoven v Lazio

Tue, October 16
Galatasaray v Nantes
Lazio v PSV Eindhoven

Wed, October 24
Lazio v Galatasaray
PSV Eindhoven v Nantes

Tue, October 30
Galatasaray v PSV Eindhoven
Nantes v Lazio

Group E

CELTIC (Sco)
JUVENTUS (Ita)
FC PORTO (Por)
ROSENBORG (Nor)

Tue, September 18, 2001
Juventus v Celtic
Rosenborg v FC Porto

Tue, September 25
Celtic v FC Porto
Rosenborg v Juventus

Wed, October 10
Celtic v Rosenborg
FC Porto v Juventus

Wed, October 17
Juventus v Rosenborg
FC Porto v Celtic

Tue, October 23
Juventus v FC Porto
Rosenborg v Celtic

Wed, October 31
Celtic v Juventus
FC Porto v Rosenborg

Group F

BARCELONA (Spa)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN (Ger)
FENERBAHCE (Tur)
LYON (Fra)

Tue, September 18, 2001
Fenerbahce v Barcelona
Lyon v Bayer Leverkusen

Tue, September 25
Bayer Leverkusen v Barcelona
Fenerbahce v Lyon

Wed, October 10
Barcelona v Lyon
Bayer Leverkusen v Fenerbahce

Wed, October 17
Barcelona v Bayer Leverkusen
Lyon v Fenerbahce

Tue, October 23
Fenerbahce v Bayer Leverkusen
Lyon v Barcelona

Wed, October 31
Barcelona v Fenerbahce
Bayer Leverkusen v Lyon

Group G

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA (Spa)
LILLE (Fra)
MANCHESTER UNITED (Eng)
OLYMPIAKOS (Gre)

Tue, September 18, 2001
Deportivo La Coruna v Olympiakos
Manchester United v Lille

Tue, September 25
Deportivo La Coruna v Manchester United
Lille v Olympiakos

Wed, October 10
Lille v Deportivo La Coruna
Olympiakos v Manchester United

Wed, October 17
Manchester United v Deportivo La Coruna
Olympiakos v Lille

Tue, October 23
Deportivo La Coruna v Lille
Manchester United v Olympiakos

Wed, October 31
Lille v Manchester United
Olympiakos v Deportivo La Coruna

Group H

BAYERN MUNICH (Ger)
FEYENOORD (Hol)
MOSCOW SPARTAK (Rus)
SPARTA PRAGUE (Cze)

Tue, September 18, 2001
Bayern Munich v Sparta Prague
Moscow Spartak v Feyenoord

Tue, September 25
Moscow Spartak v Bayern Munich
Sparta Prague v Feyenoord

Wed, October 10
Feyenoord v Bayern Munich
Sparta Prague v Moscow Spartak

Wed, October 17
Bayern Munich v Moscow Spartak
Feyenoord v Sparta Prague

Tue, October 23
Bayern Munich v Feyenoord
Moscow Spartak v Sparta Prague

Wed, October 31
Feyenoord v Moscow Spartak
Sparta Prague v Bayern Munich

The one that they want...Bayern Munich's Stefan Effenberg lifts the Champions Cup last May

Draw for second group phase

Fri, November 2, 2001

(16 qualifiers drawn into four groups of four)

Second group phase

Matchday 1: Tue, November 20 & Wed, November 21, 2001

Matchday 2: Tue, December 4 & Wed, December 5

Matchday 3: Tue, February 19 & Wed, February 20, 2002

Matchday 4: Tue, February 26 & Wed, February 27

Matchday 5: Tue, March 12 & Wed, March 13

Matchday 6: Tue, March 19 & Wed, March 20

Top two from each group qualify for quarter-finals

Draw for quarter-finals and semis

Fri, March 22, 2002

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Tue, April 2 & Wed, April 3, 2002

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

Tue, April 9 & Wed, April 10, 2002

Semi-finals, 1st legs

Tue, April 23 & Wed, April 24, 2002

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

Tue, April 30 & Wed, May 1, 2002

FINAL

Wed, May 15, 2002 – Hampden Park, Glasgow

Group B

Aug 18: Groclin 4 Ruch Chorzow 1; Pogon 2 Slask 1; Amica 3 Stomil 2; Legia 2 RKS 1.
Aug 25: RKS 2 Amica 2; Ruch Chorzow 2 Slask 2.
Aug 26: Stomil 1 Legia 6; Pogon 1 Groclin 0.
Sep 7: Legia 3 Pogon 0.
Sep 8: Amica 2 Ruch Chorzow 0; Groclin 2 Stomil 0; Slask 0 RKS 0.

POLAND – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla	7	5	1	1	17	7	16
Odra	7	4	1	2	11	8	13
Polonia	7	3	3	1	14	8	12
Zaglebie	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Katowice	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Widzew	7	2	0	5	5	14	6
KSZO	6	1	2	3	6	6	5
Gornik	7	1	2	4	6	12	5

POLAND – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Amica	7	5	2	0	15	7	17
Legia	7	4	1	2	17	6	13
Pogon	7	3	3	1	8	6	12
Groclin	7	3	1	3	10	10	10
Slask	7	2	2	3	10	10	8
RKS	7	1	3	3	4	8	6
Stomil	7	1	2	4	7	15	5
Ruch Chorzow	7	1	2	4	5	14	5

Top four from each group qualify for championship pool

PORTUGAL

Saturday, August 18

Belenenses 3 (Neca 17, 62, Marcao 31)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Gil Vicente 2 (Loureiro 11, Carlos 35)
Sporting Braga 1 (Barroso 23)

Sunday, August 19

Alverca 1 (Caju 23)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Beira Mar 2 (Fary 37, 44)
Maritimo 0

Benfica 2 (Sokota 58, Zahovic 77)
Salgueiros 0

FC Porto 4 (Clayton 21, Jorge Costa 80, Jorge Andrade 88, Helder Postiga 90)
Boavista 1 (Petit 68)

Setubal 2 (Hugo Henrique 49, 64)
Varzim 0

Uniao Leiria 2 (Derlei 25, Duah 39)
Santa Clara 2 (Tonito 45, Brandao 83)

Monday, August 20

Farense 0
Guimaraes 1 (Cleber 27)

Saturday, August 25

Benfica 3 (Mantorras 31, 37, 72)
Setubal 2 (Marco Ferreira 21, Hugo Henrique 88)

Santa Clara 0
Gil Vicente 0

Sporting Lisbon 0
Alverca 1 (Zarate 85)

Sunday, August 26

Boavista 2 (Silva 61, Duda 90)
Belenenses 0

Pacos Ferreira 1 (Leo 84)
Uniao Leiria 2 (Derlei 45, 87)

Sporting Braga 4 (Edmilson 42, Tiago 44, Ze Roberto 49, Castanheira 78)
Farense 0

Varzim 1 (Prokopenko 3)
Beira Mar 1 (Fary 42)

Monday, August 27

Maritimo 1 (Bruno 16)
FC Porto 3 (Deco 3, Costinha 5, Pena 52)

Salgueiros 1 (Joao Pedro 89)
Guimaraes 3 (Guga 30, 77, Flamarion 49)

Sunday, September 2

Santa Clara 2 (Miner 73, Vitor Vieira 81)
Alverca 1 (Tinaia 39)

Friday, September 7

Alverca 1 (Caju 78)
Boavista 2 (Goulart 34, 56)

Saturday, September 8

Belenenses 0
Maritimo 1 (Quim 80)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Silas 67)
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Jardel 46)

Sunday, September 9

Beira Mar 3 (Hugo 45, Fary 46, 48)
Benfica 3 (Mantorras 2, Drulovic 27, Sokota 59)

Farense 1 (Ferreira 90)
Santa Clara 0

Gil Vicente 1 (Douala 18)
Pacos Ferreira 1 (Mauro 64)

FC Porto 3 (Sergio Carvalho og 75, Pena 84, Capucho 87)
Varzim 0

Setubal 3 (Meyong 17, Ico 67, Hugo Henrique 82)
Salgueiros 0

Monday, September 10

Guimaraes 2 (Cleber 19, Sion 87)
Sporting Braga 1 (Ze Roberto 3)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
Boavista	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Guimaraes	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Benfica	4	2	2	0	10	7	8
Gil Vicente	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Setubal	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Uniao Leiria	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
Alverca	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Maritimo	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Farense	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Santa Clara	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Beira Mar	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
Sporting Braga	4	1	1	2	6	4	4
Pacos Ferreira	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Sporting Lisbon	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Belenenses	4	1	0	3	4	6	3
Varzim	4	0	2	2	3	8	2
Salgueiros	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Fary (Beira Mar)
4 Hugo Henrique (Setubal)
4 Mantorras (Benfica)

ROMANIA

Aug 17: National 3 Steaua 2; Dinamo 5 UM Timisoara 1.
Aug 18: Gloria 1 Otelul 0; Astra 3 Brasov 0; Sportul 3 Ceahlaul 1; Farul 1 Rapid 3.
Aug 19: U Craiova 1 Arges 0; Bacau 2 Petrolul 0.
Aug 24: Petrolul 2 U Craiova 0.
Aug 25: Arges 0 National 4; Ceahlaul 1 Astra 1; Steaua 1 Gloria 1; UM Timisoara 0 Farul 2.
Aug 26: Brasov 1 Bacau 0; Rapid 1 Sportul 0; Otelul 2 Dinamo 1.
Sep 7: National 2 Petrolul 2.
Sep 8: Gloria 2 Arges 0; U Craiova 0 Brasov 0; Farul 2 Dinamo 2; Sportul 3 UM Timisoara 0.
Sep 9: Bacau 1 Ceahlaul 1; Astra 1 Rapid 2; Steaua 2 Otelul 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	5	4	1	0	11	4	13
Steaua	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Gloria	5	3	1	1	5	5	10
Sportul	5	3	0	2	9	4	9
Dinamo	5	2	2	1	13	8	8
National	5	2	2	1	10	6	8
Brasov	5	2	2	1	4	4	8
Astra	5	2	1	2	6	4	7
U Craiova	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Otelul	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Petrolul	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Bacau	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Farul	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Ceahlaul	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Arges	5	0	1	4	3	11	1
UM Timisoara	5	0	0	5	2	15	0

RUSSIA

Aug 18: Dinamo 2 Chernomorets 1; Fakel 0 Spartak 5; Saturn 2 Rotor 1; Alaniya 1 Lokomotiv M 1; Torpedo M 3 Zenit 2; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Sokol 0; Anzhi 0 CSKA 0.
Aug 19: Torpedo-ZIL 0 Rostselmash 0.
Aug 24: CSKA 1 Torpedo-ZIL 1.
Aug 25: Rostselmash 1 Saturn 4; Rotor 4 Fakel 0; Spartak 2 Dinamo 1; Chernomorets 0 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Sokol 0 Torpedo M 2; Zenit 3 Alaniya 0.
Aug 26: Lokomotiv M 4 Anzhi 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	23	13	7	3	39	18	46
Lokomotiv M	23	12	6	5	41	18	42
Zenit	23	12	6	5	40	29	42
Kryliya Sovetov	23	11	7	5	28	16	40
Torpedo M	23	11	5	7	40	32	38
Saturn	23	10	7	6	33	17	37
CSKA	23	9	10	4	26	16	37
Sokol	23	10	5	8	24	29	35
Anzhi	23	6	9	8	22	24	27
Dinamo	23	6	7	10	28	36	25
Rotor	23	6	6	11	28	33	24
Rostselmash	23	6	6	11	19	28	24
Alaniya	23	6	6	11	22	34	24
Torpedo-ZIL	23	4	9	10	14	29	21
Fakel	23	5	4	14	19	35	19
Chernomorets	23	3	8	12	11	40	17

SCOTLAND

Saturday, August 18

Aberdeen 4 (Thornley 20, Winters 34, Mackie 55, Zerouali 75)
Motherwell 2 (Ready 29, Kelly 31) Att: 10,988

Dundee Utd 3 (McIntyre 13, Lilley 28, Hamilton pen 80)
Dunfermline 2 (Scott M Thomson pen 61, 77) Att: 7,260

Hearts 3 (Cameron 13, Wales 14, 18)
Dundee 1 (Nemsadze 86) Att: 12,259

Kilmarnock 2 (Di Giacomo 12, Pizzo 24)
St Johnstone 1 (Falconer 90) Att: 6,480

Livingston 0
Celtic 0 Att: 10,024

Rangers 2 (Hughes 26, Flo 49)
Hibernian 2 (McManus 19, Orman 59) Att: 45,540

Saturday, August 25

Dunfermline 0
Hearts 1 (Severin 75) Att: 6,992

Hibernian 1 (Fenwick 85)
Celtic 4 (Moravcik 16, Sutton 17, 20, Larsson 31) Att: 14,701

Motherwell 0
Livingston 0 Att: 4,828

St Johnstone 1 (Weir 46)
Aberdeen 1 (McGuire 21) Att: 5,459

Sunday, August 26

Dundee Utd 0
Kilmarnock 2 (Di Giacomo 12, McLaren 63) Att: 7,404

Rangers 2 (Mols 24, Ricksen 68)
Dundee 0 Att: 48,030

Saturday, September 8

Aberdeen 2 (Thornley 54, 66)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 10,735

Celtic 3 (Moravcik 9, 71, Sutton 45)
Dunfermline 1 (Crawford 86) Att: 57,956

Dundee 1 (Milne 3)
St Johnstone 1 (Jackson pen 71) Att: 7,050

Hearts 2 (McKenna 8, Simmons 81)
Rangers 2 (Latapy 15, Flo 58) Att: 14,014

Livingston 2 (Lowndes 57, Lovell 84)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 6,107

Motherwell 1 (Kelly pen 13)
Hibernian 3 (Sauzee pen 16, 48, Fenwick 64) Att: 5,784

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	6	5	1	0	13	2	16
Rangers	6	3	3	0	13	5	12
Hearts	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
Livingston	6	2	3	1	4	2	9
Hibernian	6	2	2	2	11	11	8
Kilmarnock	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Dundee	6	2	2	2	7	9	8
Dundee Utd	6	2	2	2	6	8	8
Aberdeen	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Dunfermline	6	2	0	4	11	13	6
Motherwell	6	0	3	3	7	14	3
St Johnstone	6	0	2	4	3	10	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
4 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
4 Franck Sauzee (Hibernian)

SPAIN

Saturday, August 25

Valencia 1 (Angulo 7)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 50,000

Sunday, August 26

Deportivo La Coruna 4 (Pena og 45, Valeron 63, Makaay 67, Diego Tristan 70)
Valladolid 0 Att: 30,000

Espanyol 2 (De Lucas 6, Lopo 63)
Zaragoza 1 (Jamelli 33) Att: 16,900

Malaga 3 (Dario Silva 37, 65, Zarate 69)
Betis 2 (Gaston Casas 19, pen 52) Att: 15,000

Mallorca 0
Las Palmas 3 (Pablo Lago 42, Jorge 47, Carmelo 82) Att: 18,000

Osasuna 0
Celta Vigo 3 (Catanha 32, Sergio 55, Jesuli 72) Att: 15,731

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Arteaga 42)
Villarreal 2 (Jorge Lopez 17, Craioveanu 38) Att: 5,500

Real Sociedad 1 (Khokhlov 18)
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Urzaiz 15, 82, Tiko 75) Att: 28,000

Sevilla 1 (Olivera pen 53)
Barcelona 2 (Kluivert 41, 76) Att: 45,000

Tenerife 0
Alaves 2 (Ruben Navarro 39, Astudillo 83) Att: 15,000

Saturday, September 8

Athletic Bilbao 0
Mallorca 1 (Eto'o 52) Att: 35,000

Las Palmas 0
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Fran 88) Att: 17,000

Real Madrid 1 (Roberto Carlos 15)
Malaga 1 (Sanz 77) Att: 63,814

Villarreal 3 (Victor pen 6, Jorge Lopez 52, Palermo 90)
Osasuna 0 Att: 16,000

Sunday, September 9

Alaves 2 (Magno 31, Llorens pen 79)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 14,800

Barcelona 1 (Rochemback 65)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Arteaga pen 55) Att: 65,000

Betis 2 (Joaquin 11, Gaston Casas pen 25)
Espanyol 0 Att: 35,000

Celta Vigo 3 (Catanha pen 32, Mostovoi 36, pen 71)
Tenerife 0 Att: 20,000

Valladolid 1 (Caminero 30)
Valencia 1 (Salva 90) Att: 12,000

Zaragoza 1 (Esquerdinha 62)
Sevilla 1 (Moises 80) Att: 20,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celta Vigo	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Dep La Coruna	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Villarreal	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Alaves	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Malaga	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Valencia	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Las Palmas	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Betis	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Athletic Bilbao	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Espanyol	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Mallorca	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Rayo Vallecano	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Sevilla	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Zaragoza	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Real Madrid	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Valladolid	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Real Sociedad	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Tenerife	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Osasuna	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

3 Gaston Casas (Betis)
2 Arteaga (Rayo Vallecano)
2 Catanha (Celta Vigo)
2 Jorge Lopez (Villarreal)
2 Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
2 Alexander Mostovoi (Celta Vigo)
2 Dario Silva (Malaga)
2 Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao)

SUPER CUP

1st leg - Aug 19
Zaragoza 1 (Yordi 79)
Real Madrid 1 (Flavio Conceicao 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto

2nd leg - Aug 22
Real Madrid 3 (Raul 73, 81, 88)
Zaragoza 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez
Madrid 4-1 on agg

SWEDEN

Aug 18: Hammarby 1 Halmstads 0.
Aug 19: Elfsborg 1 AIK 2; Helsingborgs 1 Hacken 0.
Aug 20: Djurgardens 0 Norrkoping 2; Sundsvall 1 Orebro 4; IFK Gothenburg 3 Trelleborgs 2.
Aug 22: Malmo 2 Orgryte 1.
Aug 26: Hacken 2 Elfsborg 3; Halmstads 1 Sundsvall 1; Norrkoping 1 Malmo 1.
Aug 27: Helsingborgs 5 Orgryte 0; IFK Gothenburg 1 Hammarby 0; Trelleborgs 1 AIK 1.
Sep 6: Djurgardens 2 Orebro 0.
Sep 8: Elfsborg 0 Halmstads 2.
Sep 9: AIK 1 Norrkoping 1; Sundsvall 2 Helsingborgs 2.
Sep 10: Hammarby 2 Hacken 2; Orebro 1 IFK Gothenburg 2; Orgryte 2 Trelleborgs 1.
Sep 11: Malmo 1 Djurgardens 3.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Djurgardens	20	11	5	4	27	18	38
Hammarby	20	10	6	4	32	19	36
IFK Gothenburg	20	10	6	4	33	24	36
Helsingborgs	20	8	8	4	37	24	32
Halmstads	20	8	6	6	39	24	30
Orgryte	20	8	6	6	29	28	30
AIK	20	7	8	5	27	23	29
Malmo	20	8	4	8	32	30	28
Orebro	20	5	9	6	34	34	24
Elfsborg	20	7	2	11	25	42	23
Norrkoping	20	5	7	8	23	33	22
Hacken	20	4	7	9	26	31	19
Sundsvall	20	3	7	10	18	32	16
Trelleborgs	20	3	5	12	21	41	14

SWITZERLAND

Aug 17: Young Boys 2 Neuchatel Xamax 0.
Aug 18: Aarau 1 Basle 1; Grasshopper 1 Lausanne 2; Lucerne 1 St Gallen 3.
Aug 21: Lausanne 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1; Lugano 1 Zurich 1; Sion 1 Servette 3.
Aug 25: Zurich 1 Grasshopper 3; Basle 5 Lugano 1; Lausanne 3 Lucerne 2; Neuchatel Xamax 0 Aarau 0; Servette 3 Young Boys 0.
Aug 26: St Gallen 3 Sion 0.
Sep 7: Lugano 3 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
Sep 8: Grasshopper 1 Basle 0; Young Boys 2 Aarau 1; Lucerne 3 Zurich 0; Servette 1 St Gallen 2; Sion 1 Lausanne 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Young Boys	10	5	3	2	18	14	18
Grasshopper	10	5	2	3	24	13	17
Lugano	10	5	2	3	16	15	17
Sion	10	5	1	4	18	13	16
Zurich	10	4	4	2	15	14	16
Servette	10	4	3	3	14	11	15
St Gallen	10	4	2	4	18	19	14
Aarau	10	3	4	3	13	11	13
Neuchatel Xamax	10	2	5	3	7	9	11
Basle	9	3	2	4	16	19	11
Lausanne	9	2	2	5	10	17	8
Lucerne	10	1	2	7	11	25	5

TURKEY

Aug 17: Bursaspor 2 Besiktas 2.
Aug 18: Diyarbakirspor 1 Goztepe 2; Samsunspor 2 Genclerbirligi 2; Kocaelispor 3 Antalyaspor 1; Galatasaray 1 Denizlispor 0.
Aug 19: Yozgatspor 2 Rizespor 1; Ankaragucu 6 Malatyaspor 0; Trabzonspor 2 Gaziantepspor 1; Istanbulspor 1 Fenerbahce 0.
Aug 24: Trabzonspor 5 Bursaspor 0.
Aug 25: Besiktas 4 Diyarbakirspor 0; Genclerbirligi 0 Istanbulspor 1; Goztepe 2 Samsunspor 1; Antalyaspor 3 Yozgatspor 3.
Aug 26: Gaziantepspor 0 Denizlispor 0; Kocaelispor 2 Malatyaspor 0; Fenerbahce 4 Ankaragucu 1; Rizespor 3 Galatasaray 6.
Sep 7: Ankaragucu 2 Genclerbirligi 5.
Sep 8: Kocaelispor 3 Fenerbahce 3; Diyarbakirspor 3 Trabzonspor 1; Bursaspor 0 Gaziantepspor 2; Galatasaray 2 Antalyaspor 1.
Sep 9: Denizlispor 1 Rizespor 2; Istanbulspor 0 Goztepe 0; Yozgatspor 3 Malatyaspor 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	4	3	1	0	10	5	10
Goztepe	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Istanbulspor	4	3	1	0	3	0	10
Trabzonspor	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Kocaelispor	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Fenerbahce	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Yozgatspor	4	2	1	1	8	9	7
Ankaragucu	4	2	0	2	17	10	6
Genclerbirligi	4	1	2	1	11	9	5
Gaziantepspor	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
Besiktas	3	1	1	1	7	4	4
Denizlispor	4	1	1	2	6	3	4
Diyarbakirspor	4	1	1	2	8	11	4
Rizespor	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
Samsunspor	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Bursaspor	4	0	1	3	2	11	1
Antalyaspor	4	0	1	3	6	16	1
Malatyaspor	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

UKRAINE

Aug 18: Tavriya 0 Dnipro 2; Metalurh M 2 Poligraftekhnika 1; CSKA 0 Zakarpattya 2; Metalurh D 0 Vorskla 0; Karpaty 3 Kryvbas 2.
Aug 25: Metalurh M 0 Tavriya 0; Dnipro 0 Metalurh Z 0; Zakarpattya 1 Metalurh D 1; Vorskla 1 Karpaty 3; Poligraftekhnika 0 Kryvbas 0.
Aug 26: Dynamo 2 CSKA 0; Shakhtar 3 Metalist 0.
Aug 29: Kryvbas 2 Tavriya 0.
Aug 31: Karpaty 3 Zakarpattya 0.
Sep 1: Metalurh Z 3 Metalurh M 0; Tavriya 2 Poligraftekhnika 0; Kryvbas 2 Vorskla 0.
Sep 8: Metalist 3 Dnipro 0.
Sep 9: Tavriya 1 Vorskla 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Karpaty	9	5	3	1	13	8	18
Shakhtar	6	5	1	0	16	5	16
Metalurh D	8	4	3	1	13	3	15
Dynamo	6	4	2	0	11	2	14
Dnipro	8	3	4	1	7	5	13
Metalist	8	4	1	3	13	16	13
Kryvbas	9	3	3	3	12	11	12
Metalurh Z	8	3	2	3	9	7	11
Tavriya	8	3	2	3	9	8	11
Metalurh M	9	3	2	4	8	11	11
Poligraftekhnika	9	2	3	4	5	12	9
Zakarpattya	9	1	3	5	10	23	6
CSKA	7	1	0	6	4	9	3
Vorskla	8	0	1	7	2	12	1

YUGOSLAVIA

Aug 17: Red Star 1 Mladost A 1.
Aug 18: OFK 1 Rudar P 0; Obilic 0 Hajduk K 0; Rad 3 Cukaricki 2; Radnicki K 2 Partizan 2; Sartid 1 Zeleznik 0; Sutjeska 1 Mladost L 0; Vojvodina 0 Zeta 0; Zvezdara 0 Zemun 0.
Aug 25: Mladost L 3 Radnicki K 0; Hajduk K 2 Sutjeska 1; Rudar P 2 Zvezdara 0; Zeta 0 OFK 0; Zeleznik 1 Vojvodina 1; Cukaricki 1 Sartid 3; Red Star 1 Rad 0.
Aug 26: Mladost A 1 Partizan 3; Zemun 0 Obilic 0.
Sep 7: OFK 1 Zeleznik 0; Zvezdara 6 Zeta 0.
Sep 8: Rad 3 Mladost A 0; Sartid 2 Red Star 1; Vojvodina 1 Cukaricki 1; Obilic 1 Rudar P 0; Sutjeska 0 Zemun 0; Radnicki K 1 Hajduk K 1; Partizan 2 Mladost L 1.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sartid	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Partizan	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
OFK	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Rad	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Hajduk K	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Obilic	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
Zvezdara	3	1	1	1	6	2	4
Red Star	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Sutjeska	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Mladost L	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Rudar P	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Vojvodina	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Zemun	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Radnicki K	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
Zeta	3	0	2	1	0	6	2
Zeleznik	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Cukaricki	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Mladost A	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, August 17

Racing Club 2 (Arano 13, De Muner og 78)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Insua 56)

Saturday, August 18

Nueva Chicago 0
San Lorenzo 3 (Franco 55, Rodriguez 76, Benito 83)

Rosario Central 2 (Vespa 60, Pizzi 90)
Lanus 1 (Bustos 87)

Sunday, August 19

Banfield 0
Newell's Old Boys 5 (Rodriguez 16, pen 83, 90, Pavlovich 24, Rosales 68)

Boca Juniors 1 (Gaitan 51)
Belgrano Cordoba 3 (Goux 24, Martina 79, Quintana 84)

Estudiantes 2 (Maggiolo 8, Farias 56)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Aquino 26, Delgado 32)

Huracan 2 (Canobbio 59, Lobos 69)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Rivero 3, Muller 24)

Talleres Cordoba 1 (La Paglia 8)
River Plate 3 (Cardetti 25, 43, Ayala 41)

Union Santa Fe 1 (Mazzoni 83)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Sava 43, Enria 88)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Hidalgo 16)
Independiente 4 (Forlan 40, 52, 81, Silvera 70)

Friday, August 24

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Moreno 25, Muller 72)
Union Santa Fe 2 (Tilger 45, Ruiz 90)

Saturday, August 25

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Insua 77)
Rosario Central 0

Lanus 4 (Klimowicz 46, 87, Bustos 71, Diaz 81)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Sunday, August 26

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Desagastizabal 31, Lopez pen 84)
Banfield 0

Gimnasia LP 1 (Sava 5)
Estudiantes 1 (Sanguinetti og 13)

Independiente 1 (Forlan 78)
Racing Club 1 (Loeschbor 90)

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Crosa 18)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Duena og 90)

River Plate 4 (Cambiasso 2, Moner og 12, Ortega 63, Cardetti 67)
Huracan 1 (Morquio 84)

San Lorenzo 1 (Capria 87)
Boca Juniors 0

Tuesday, August 28

Huracan 1 (Adippe 83)
Lanus 2 (Klimowicz pen 66, Diaz 75)

Independiente 0
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Crosa 29)

Nueva Chicago 0
Gimnasia LP 0

Rosario Central 0
Racing Club 1 (Chatruc 65)

Velez Sarsfield 0
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Obolo 9)

Wednesday, August 29

Banfield 2 (Cervera 50, Bueno 83)
San Lorenzo 2 (Romagnoli 16, Pusineri 76)

Boca Juniors 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

Estudiantes 0
Chacarita Juniors 3 (Muller 22, 49, 63)

Talleres Cordoba 0
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Pena 84)

Union Santa Fe 1 (San Martin 49)
River Plate 1 (Cambiasso 81)

Friday, August 31

Racing Club 2 (Milito 14, 40)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Duena 90)

Saturday, September 1

Belgrano Cordoba 0
Independiente 2 (Forlan 65, Montenegro pen 89)

Lanus 2 (Daniele 38, Klimowicz 73)
Union Santa Fe 0

Sunday, September 2

Argentinos Juniors 3 (Monsalvo og 30, Insua 32, Cordone 74)
Huracan 1 (Moner 90)

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Muller 13, Quinteros 76)
Nueva Chicago 0

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Graf 51)
Banfield 0

Gimnasia LP 2 (Scotti 2, Pautasso 87)
Boca Juniors 2 (Delgado 40, Herner og 71)

River Plate 3 (Cambiasso 28, 35, D'Alessandro 90)
Estudiantes 0

Rosario Central 1 (Rivarola 62)
Talleres Cordoba 0

San Lorenzo 2 (Romagnoli 38, 90)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (F Dominguez pen 28)

Friday, September 7

Velez Sarsfield 2 (F Dominguez 30, 41)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Castagno Suarez 66, Morant 87)

Saturday, September 8

Huracan 0
Rosario Central 4 (Pizzi 23, 62, M Gonzalez 66, Delgado 90)

Talleres Cordoba 0
Racing Club 2 (Loeschbor 75, Torres 88)

Sunday, September 9

Banfield 2 (Bilos 31, Sanchez 78)
Gimnasia LP 3 (Messera 35, Castillo 70, Sava 81)

Boca Juniors 3 (Gaitan 17, Romero og 68, Guillermo Barros Schelotto 90)
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Moreno pen 36)

Estudiantes 1 (Maggiolo 78)
Lanus 3 (Bustos 23, Pages 37, Domizi 49)

Independiente 0
San Lorenzo 0

Newell's Old Boys 0
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Obolo 52)

Nueva Chicago 2 (Mandra 42, Jesus 78)
River Plate 1 (Cambiasso 81)

Union Santa Fe 1 (M Donnet pen 45)
Argentinos Juniors 2 (Alaniz 37, Garcia 81)

Wednesday, September 12

Colon Santa Fe 3 (Miglionico 10, Graf 27, Capurro 82)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Gomez 90)
Completion of game started on August 25; it was suspended after 10 minutes because of apparent serious injury to Miglionico

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Racing Club	5	4	1	0	8	3	13
Lanus	5	4	0	1	12	4	12
Argentinos Jnrs	5	4	0	1	8	4	12
Belgrano Cordoba	5	4	0	1	7	3	12
San Lorenzo	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
River Plate	5	3	1	1	12	5	10
Rosario Central	5	3	0	2	7	3	9
Colon Santa Fe	5	2	3	0	8	5	9
Gimnasia LP	5	2	3	0	8	6	9
Independiente	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Chacarita Jnrs	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
Newell's OB	5	2	1	2	8	4	7
Boca Juniors	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Nueva Chicago	5	1	1	3	3	9	4
Union Santa Fe	5	0	2	3	5	9	2
Velez Sarsfield	5	0	2	3	5	10	2
Estudiantes	5	0	2	3	4	12	2
Banfield	5	0	1	4	4	13	1
Huracan	5	0	1	4	5	15	1
Talleres Cordoba	5	0	0	5	1	11	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Victor Muller (Chacarita Juniors)
5 Esteban Cambiasso (River Plate)
5 Diego Forlan (Independiente)
4 Diego Klimowicz (Lanus)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Bolivar 3 Blooming 2.
Aug 18: Iberoamericana 2 Mariscal Braun 2; Santa Cruz 1 Guabira 4.
Aug 19: Bolivar 3 The Strongest 1; Real Potosi 5 Independiente 1; Union Central 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1.
Aug 22: Guabira 2 Union Central 1; Mariscal Braun 1 Independiente 1; Real Potosi 2 Iberoamericana 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Santa Cruz 1.
Aug 23: Oriente 0 The Strongest 0.
Aug 25: Blooming 2 Mariscal Braun 1.
Aug 26: Iberoamericana 4 Oriente 2; Independiente 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Santa Cruz 1 Bolivar 1; The Strongest 7 Guabira 0; Union Central 3 Real Potosi 5.
Aug 28: Santa Cruz 1 Blooming 0.
Aug 29: Bolivar 1 Independiente 1; Oriente 1 Guabira 1; Real Potosi 2 The Strongest 2; Union Central 4 Iberoamericana 1.
Aug 30: Mariscal Braun 0 Jorge Wilstermann 3.
Sep 2: Blooming 1 Oriente 0.

BOLIVIA: CLOSING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	7	4	3	0	18	9	15
J Wilstermann	7	3	2	2	11	10	11
Blooming	7	3	0	4	9	10	9
Santa Cruz	7	2	2	3	5	8	8
Independiente	7	1	4	2	7	13	7
Mariscal Braun	7	1	3	3	9	13	6

BOLIVIA: CLOSING – GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Potosi	7	4	1	2	18	16	13
The Strongest	7	3	3	1	16	6	12
Iberoamericana	7	3	2	2	16	13	11
Guabira	7	3	2	2	13	14	11
Oriente	7	1	3	3	10	11	6
Union Central	7	1	1	5	12	21	4

Top four from each group qualify for second stage

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 15: Flamengo 2 Sport Recife 1; Corinthians 0 Juventude 0; Cruzeiro 0 America MG 3; Parana 1 Ponte Preta 2; Santa Cruz 3 Palmeiras 2; Vitoria 1 Vasco da Gama 0; Sao Caetano 1 Fluminense 1.
Aug 16: Internacional 2 Bahia 0; Botafogo (Rio) 0 Goias 1; Portuguesa 1 Coritiba 0; Atletico Paranaense 1 Atletico Mineiro 0; Guarani 1 Sao Paulo 2; Botafogo SP 0 Santos 1; Gama 2 Gremio 1.
Aug 18: Vasco da Gama 1 Santa Cruz 1; Palmeiras 3 Parana 1; America 0 Sao Caetano 1.
Aug 19: Sport Recife 2 Corinthians 1; Bahia 0 Flamengo 2; Fluminense 4 Gama 3; Sao Paulo 2 Atletico Paranaense 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Botafogo SP 0; Coritiba 3 Cruzeiro 2; Gremio 0 Vitoria 0; Ponte Preta 2 Portuguesa 1; Goias 0 Internacional 1; Santos 0 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Juventude 1 Guarani 0.
Aug 25: Fluminense 3 Santa Cruz 2; Palmeiras 3 Goias 2; Parana 0 Portuguesa 1.
Aug 26: Bahia 1 Corinthians 0; Botafogo SP 1 Flamengo 0; Vasco da Gama 4 Atletico Paranaense 0; Sao Paulo 4 Ponte Preta 0; Atletico Mineiro 3 Vitoria 0; Coritiba 1 Sao Caetano 1; Gremio 3 America 1; Sport Recife 0 Cruzeiro 1; Guarani 2 Internacional 2; Gama 0 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Santos 2 Juventude 2.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Mineiro	7	5	1	1	14	3	16
Palmeiras	7	5	1	1	16	9	16
Sao Paulo	7	4	2	1	14	7	14
Internacional	7	4	1	2	11	8	13
At Paranaense	7	4	1	2	10	7	13
Fluminense	7	3	4	0	13	9	13
Ponte Preta	7	3	3	1	9	9	12
Goias	7	3	2	2	6	4	11
Coritiba	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Santos	7	2	5	0	7	4	11
Portuguesa	7	3	1	3	6	6	10
Juventude	7	2	4	1	7	7	10
Sao Caetano	7	2	4	1	5	7	10
Bahia	7	3	0	4	11	10	9
Parana	7	3	0	4	8	9	9
Vasco da Gama	7	2	3	2	13	5	9
Botafogo (Rio)	7	2	3	2	9	7	9
Vitoria	7	2	3	2	5	8	9
Corinthians	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
Gremio	7	2	2	3	7	8	8
Cruzeiro	7	2	1	4	8	10	7
Sport Recife	7	2	1	4	7	10	7
Flamengo	7	2	1	4	4	9	7
Gama	7	1	4	2	6	8	7
America MG	7	1	2	4	6	9	5
Santa Cruz	7	1	2	4	9	16	5
Botafogo SP	7	1	1	5	6	14	4
Guarani	7	0	2	5	6	19	2

Top eight qualify for knockout stages

CHILE

Aug 18: Colo Colo 2 Huachipato 1; O'Higgins 4 San Felipe 3; Union Espanola 1 Cobreloa 1.
Aug 19: Santiago Wanderers 1 U Catolica 3; Coquimbo Unido 0 Palestino 0; Audax Italiano 2 Puerto Montt 0; Dep Concepcion 2 U de Chile 2; Santiago Morning 2 Rangers 1.
Aug 25: U Catolica 4 O'Higgins 0; Cobreloa 3 Coquimbo Unido 2; Palestino 1 Dep Concepcion 0.
Aug 26: Huachipato 3 Audax Italiano 1; Puerto Montt 3 Santiago Wanderers 3.
Aug 29: U de Chile 0 Santiago Morning 1.
Aug 31: San Felipe 3 Union Espanola 0; Rangers 1 Colo Colo 1.

CHILE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	18	10	5	3	34	18	35
Colo Colo	18	9	6	3	33	20	33
Cobreloa	18	9	6	3	26	15	33
Sant Wanderers	18	9	5	4	31	21	32
U Catolica	18	9	4	5	34	20	31
Palestino	18	9	3	6	23	24	30
San Felipe	18	7	5	6	28	23	26
Dep Concepcion	18	7	4	7	24	24	25
Coquimbo Unido	18	7	4	7	19	22	25
Huachipato	18	6	6	6	33	25	24
Union Espanola	18	6	6	6	31	37	24
Rangers	18	4	7	7	23	24	19
Audax Italiano	18	6	1	11	16	24	19
Puerto Montt	18	3	5	10	19	38	14
O'Higgins	18	4	2	12	22	45	14
Sant Morning	18	3	3	12	23	39	12

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 18: Once Caldas 3 Real Cartagena 0.
Aug 19: Indep Santa Fe 2 Tulua 1; Tolima 1 Dep Cali 3; Dep Pasto 2 Millonarios 1; At Junior 3 Pereira 1; Indep Medellin 1 Envigado 1; Bucaramanga 0 At Nacional 1; America 1 At Huila 1.
Aug 22: Indep Santa Fe 2 America 0; Tulua 1 Millonarios 3; Dep Cali 1 Dep Pasto 1; At Huila 0 Tolima 2; At Nacional 2 Envigado 0; Pereira 0 Indep Medellin 2; Real Cartagena 1 At Junior 1; Bucaramanga 1 Once Caldas 3.
Aug 26: Once Caldas 3 At Nacional 2; At Junior 0 Bucaramanga 0; Envigado 4 Pereira 0; Millonarios 1 Dep Cali 4; Tolima 0 Indep Santa Fe 0; Dep Pasto 0 At Huila 0; Indep Medellin 3 Real Cartagena 1.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Once Caldas	5	5	0	0	14	4	15
Dep Cali	5	3	1	1	11	7	10
Indep Santa Fe	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Tolima	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Dep Pasto	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Indep Medellin	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
At Nacional	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Envigado	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Millonarios	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
At Huila	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
At Junior	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Bucaramanga	5	0	3	2	1	4	3
Real Cartagena	5	0	3	2	3	8	3
Tulua	4	0	1	3	4	8	1
America	4	0	1	3	2	6	1
Pereira	5	0	1	4	1	10	1

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 18: Delfin 2 Emelec 6; Espoli 1 Aucas 1; Barcelona 3 Macara 1.
Aug 19: Dep Quito 6 LDU Portoviejo 1; Olmedo 0 El Nacional 0.
Aug 22: Espoli 2 Delfin 0; Emelec 1 El Nacional 0; Macara 0 Olmedo 0.
Aug 23: LDU Portoviejo 0 Barcelona 0.
Aug 24: Aucas 3 Dep Quito 1.
Aug 26: El Nacional 5 LDU Portoviejo 0; Dep Quito 2 Espoli 1; Olmedo 1 Aucas 0; Delfin 1 Macara 2; Barcelona 1 Emelec 0.
Sep 8: LDU Portoviejo 2 Delfin 3.
Sep 9: Aucas 3 El Nacional 2; Espoli 0 Olmedo 0; Macara 3 Emelec 1; Barcelona 1 Dep Quito 1.

ECUADOR – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olmedo	6	3	3	0	4	1	12
Barcelona	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
El Nacional	6	3	1	2	11	6	10
Dep Quito	6	3	1	2	12	8	10
Aucas	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Espoli	6	2	3	1	9	5	9
Emelec	6	3	0	3	10	8	9
Macara	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Delfin	6	1	0	5	7	15	3
LDU Portoviejo	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 17: Olimpia 1 San Lorenzo 0; Cerro Porteno 1 Colegiales 0.
Aug 18: Sportivo Luqueno 3 Cerro Cora 0; Libertad 0 Guarani 1; 12 de Octubre 2 Sol de America 3.
Aug 25: Guarani 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Aug 26: Olimpia 0 12 de Octubre 0; Cerro Cora 0 Libertad 0; San Lorenzo 4 Colegiales 0; Sol de America 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1.
Aug 29: Libertad 1 Sol de America 1.
Aug 31: Cerro Porteno 4 Cerro Cora 1; Sportivo Luqueno 2 Olimpia 1.
Sep 2: Colegiales 1 Guarani 0; 12 de Octubre 3 San Lorenzo 0.
Sep 7: Sol de America 1 Cerro Porteno 4.
Sep 9: San Lorenzo 2 Guarani 0; Cerro Cora 2 Colegiales 2; 12 de Octubre 4 Sportivo Luqueno 1; Olimpia 0 Libertad 1.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	6	5	1	0	12	3	16
Sportivo Luqueno	6	3	2	1	10	8	11
12 de Octubre	6	3	1	2	11	6	10
San Lorenzo	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Cerro Cora	6	2	2	2	9	10	8
Sol de America	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Libertad	6	1	4	1	3	3	7
Colegiales	6	1	2	3	4	9	5
Guarani	6	1	1	4	2	6	4
Olimpia	6	1	1	4	2	8	4

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 18: Alianza Lima 1 Union Minas 0; Coopsol Trujillo 3 Sporting Cristal 1.
Aug 19: Alianza Atletico 2 Cienciano 0; Estudiantes 1 Juan Aurich 0; Dep Wanka 2 Universitario 0; Sport Boys 1 Melgar 0.

Aug 26: Universitario 2 Coopsol Trujillo 0; Sporting Cristal 3 Alianza Atletico 0; Juan Aurich 2 Alianza Lima 1; Melgar 4 Dep Wanka 1; Union Minas 2 Sport Boys 0; Cienciano 4 Estudiantes 1.
Aug 30: Sport Boys 1 Sporting Cristal 0; Alianza Atletico 3 Union Minas 2; Universitario 2 Alianza Lima 1.
Sep 2: Dep Wanka 2 Cienciano 3; Estudiantes 1 Melgar 2; Juan Aurich 1 Coopsol Trujillo 1.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melgar	6	5	0	1	13	4	15
Sporting Cristal	6	4	0	2	11	5	12
Cienciano	6	4	0	2	13	11	12
Sport Boys	6	4	0	2	5	5	12
Universitario	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Union Minas	6	3	0	3	7	5	9
Dep Wanka	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Estudiantes	6	2	1	3	6	9	7
Alianza Lima	6	2	0	4	7	10	6
Alianza Atletico	6	2	0	4	5	8	6
Juan Aurich	6	1	2	3	3	6	5
Coopsol Trujillo	6	1	1	4	6	12	4

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Rnd 3: Penarol 2 Defensor 2; Bella Vista P 0 Nacional 2; Juventud 1 Wanderers 2; Danubio 4 Bella Vista M 1; Fenix 3 Tacuarembo 1.
Aug 16: Defensor 1 Fenix 2; Nacional 2 Juventud 0; Wanderers 2 Bella Vista M 1; Bella Vista P 0 Danubio 2.
Aug 19: Tacuarembo 1 Nacional 3; Wanderers 2 Fenix 1; Bella Vista P 2 Juventud 2; Bella Vista M 0 Penarol 2.
Aug 22: Danubio 1 Tacuarembo 0; Juventud 1 Defensor 4; Fenix 1 Bella Vista M 4; Nacional 1 Wanderers 0.
Aug 25: Penarol 3 Bella Vista P 0; Danubio 4 Juventud 0; Defensor 2 Tacuarembo 2; Bella Vista M 3 Nacional 2.
Aug 27: Penarol 1 Wanderers 1.
Aug 28: Defensor 0 Danubio 0; Bella Vista P 0 Fenix 5.
Aug 29: Penarol 3 Tacaurembo 1.
Sep 5: Wanderers 1 Bella Vista P 0.
Sep 6: Penarol 3 Danubio 2; Defensor 1 Nacional 2; Fenix 3 Juventud 1; Tacuarembo 1 Bella Vista M 0.
Sep 8: Bella Vista P 2 Bella Vista M 0.
Sep 9: Fenix 0 Danubio 1; Nacional 1 Penarol 2; Wanderers 4 Defensor 4; Juventud 1 Tacuarembo 3.

URUGUAY: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Danubio	9	7	1	1	17	4	22
Penarol	9	6	3	0	18	7	21
Nacional	9	6	0	3	15	9	18
Wanderers	9	5	2	2	13	11	17
Defensor	9	3	4	2	20	15	13
Fenix	9	4	1	4	16	12	13
Tacuarembo	9	2	2	5	9	14	8
Bella Vista M	9	2	0	7	12	20	6
Bella Vista P	9	1	2	6	5	19	5
Juventud	9	1	1	7	10	24	4

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 19: Monagas 1 Ital-Chacao 0; Caracas 1 Nacional 2; Portuguesa 1 Trujillanos 1; Dep Tachira 5 Galicia 0; Mineros Guayana 0 Estudiantes 2.
Aug 26: Mineros Guayana 0 Monagas 0; Estudiantes 0 Dep Tachira 1; Galicia 0 Portuguesa 2; Trujillanos 1 Caracas 1; Nacional 1 Ital-Chacao 3.
Sep 8: Ital-Chacao 1 Trujillanos 2.
Sep 9: Monagas 0 Nacional 1; Caracas 4 Galicia 0; Portuguesa 2 Estudiantes 2; Dep Tachira 0 Mineros Guayana 1.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Tachira	3	2	0	1	6	1	6
Nacional	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Portuguesa	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Trujillanos	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Caracas	3	1	1	1	6	3	4
Estudiantes	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Monagas	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Mineros Guayana	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Ital-Chacao	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Galicia	3	0	0	3	0	11	0

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

WINTER LEAGUE

Aug 16: Atlante 2 Cruz Azul 2; Tecos UAG 2 Leon 1.
Aug 18: Toluca 1 Guadalajara 1; Monterrey 2 Atletico Celaya 1; Atlas 0 Tigres 0.
Aug 19: Pumas UNAM 1 Atlante 2; Cruz Azul 2 Atletico Morelia 2; Irapuato 2 Puebla 3; La Piedad 1 America 1; Leon 4 Santos 2; Necaxa 1 Tecos UAG 0.
Aug 25: Atlante 3 Leon 1; Santos 2 Necaxa 2; Tecos UAG 0 Toluca 1; Puebla 1 Atletico Celaya 1.
Aug 26: Atletico Morelia 1 Pumas UNAM 1; Guadalajara 3 Monterrey 1; Pachuca 3 La Piedad 1; Irapuato 3 Atlas 0.
Sep 1: America 1 Irapuato 1.
Sep 8: Toluca 6 Santos 2; Cruz Azul 3 Pachuca 2; Monterrey 3 Tecos UAG 3; Necaxa 0 Atlante 0; Atletico Celaya 2 Guadalajara 2; Atlas 3 Puebla 1.
Sep 9: Pumas UNAM 1 America 1; La Piedad 2 Tigres 0; Leon 1 Atletico Morelia 1.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	8	3	5	0	14	10	14
Cruz Azul	6	3	2	1	13	10	11
Atlas	8	3	1	4	10	11	10
Monterrey	8	2	3	3	10	12	9
At Celaya	8	1	3	4	8	16	6

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	8	4	4	0	15	7	16
At Morelia	7	2	4	1	13	12	10
La Piedad	8	1	5	2	14	16	8
Santos	5	2	1	2	15	17	7
Irapuato	7	1	1	5	8	12	4

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	7	3	3	1	10	8	12
Necaxa	8	1	7	0	9	8	10
Tecos UAG	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
America	6	1	4	1	5	5	7
Leon	8	2	1	5	11	15	7

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pachuca	7	4	1	2	9	8	13
Puebla	8	3	3	2	11	10	12
Tigres	7	3	1	3	7	6	10
Pumas UNAM	7	1	3	3	11	9	6

LEADING GOALSCORERS

5	Jose Manuel Abundis (Atlante)
5	Jose Luis Calderon (Atlas)
5	Alex Fernandez (Atletico Morelia)
5	Pedro Pineda (La Piedad)
5	Martin Rodriguez (Irapuato)

UNITED STATES

Aug 18: San Jose Earthquakes 0 Chicago Fire 1; Los Angeles Galaxy 5 Tampa Bay Mutiny 1; New England Revolution 2 DC United 1; Miami Fusion 4 Dallas Burn 2.
Aug 19: MetroStars 0 Columbus Crew 1; Kansas City Wizards 3 Colorado Rapids 2.
Aug 25: San Jose Earthquakes 5 Colorado Rapids 2; DC United 2 Columbus Crew 1; Los Angeles Galaxy 1 Chicago Fire 3; Miami Fusion 2 MetroStars 3; Dallas Burn 3 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Aug 26: Tampa Bay Mutiny 0 New England Revolution 0.
Aug 29: Tampa Bay Mutiny 2 Dallas Burn 3; Chicago Fire 2 Columbus Crew 1.
Sep 1: Los Angeles Galaxy 3 Colorado Rapids 2; San Jose Earthquakes 3 Kansas City Wizards 0; DC United 5 Tampa Bay Mutiny 1; MetroStars 0 Chicago Fire 1; Columbus Crew 4 New England Revolution 1.
Sep 7: MetroStars 3 New England Revolution 1.
Sep 8: Miami Fusion 3 DC United 1; Chicago Fire 2 Dallas Burn 2; Kansas City Wizards 1 San Jose Earthquakes 0; Colorado Rapids 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 2.
Sep 9: Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 Columbus Crew 2.

EASTERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Miami Fusion	26	16	5	5	57	36	53
MetroStars	26	13	3	10	38	35	42
New England	27	7	6	14	35	52	27
DC United	26	8	2	16	42	50	26

CENTRAL DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chicago Fire	27	16	5	6	50	30	53
Columbus Crew	26	13	6	7	49	36	45
Dallas Burn	26	10	5	11	48	47	35
Tampa Bay	27	4	2	21	32	68	14

WESTERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LA Galaxy	26	14	5	7	52	36	47
San Jose	26	13	6	7	47	29	45
Kansas City	27	11	3	13	33	53	36
Colorado Rapids	26	5	8	13	36	47	23

LEADING GOALSCORERS

19	Alex Pineda Chacon (Miami Fusion)
15	Diego Serna (Miami Fusion)
14	John Spencer (Colorado Rapids)
14	Abdul Thompson Conteh (DC United)

AFRICA

2002 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

FINALS DRAW

To be played in Mali

Group A

Jan 19 - Mali v Liberia (Bamako)
Jan 21 - Algeria v Nigeria (Bamako)
Jan 24 - Mali v Nigeria (Bamako)
Jan 25 - Algeria v Liberia (Bamako)
Jan 28 - Mali v Algeria (Bamako)
Jan 28 - Liberia v Nigeria (Mopti)

Group B

Jan 20 - Burkina Faso v South Africa (Segou)
Jan 21 - Ghana v Morocco (Segou)
Jan 24 - Ghana v South Africa (Segou)
Jan 26 - Burkina Faso v Morocco (Segou)
Jan 30 - Morocco v South Africa (Segou)
Jan 30 - Burkina Faso v Ghana (Mopti)

Group C

Jan 20 - Cameroon v DR Congo (Sikasso)
Jan 21 - Ivory Coast v Togo (Sikasso)
Jan 25 - Cameroon v Ivory Coast (Sikasso)
Jan 26 - DR Congo v Togo (Sikasso)
Jan 29 - Cameroon v Togo (Sikasso)
Jan 29 - DR Congo v Ivory Coast (Kayes)

Group D

Jan 20 - Egypt v Senegal (Bamako)
Jan 21 - Tunisia v Zambia (Bamako)
Jan 25 - Egypt v Tunisia (Bamako)
Jan 26 - Senegal v Zambia (Bamako)
Jan 31 - Egypt v Zambia (Bamako)
Jan 31 - Senegal v Tunisia (Kayes)

Quarter-finals

Feb 3 - (1) Winners A v runners-up B (Bamako)
Feb 3 - (2) Winners D v runners-up C (Kayes)
Feb 4 - (3) Winners C v runners-up D (Sikasso)
Feb 4 - (4) Winners B v runners-up A (Segou)

Semi-finals

Feb 7 - Winners 4 v winners 1 (Segou)
Feb 7 - Winners 2 v winners 3 (Bamako)

Third-place play-off

Feb 9 - *In Mopti*

Final

Feb 10 - *In Bamako*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-final groups

Group A

Aug 25: Esperance (Tun) 2 TP Mazembe (DRC) 1; Julius Berger (Nig) 2 Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf) 0.
Sep 8: Julius Berger 1 Esperance 1; TP Mazembe 0 Mamelodi Sundowns 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Julius Berger	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
TP Mazembe	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Mam Sundowns	3	0	2	1	0	2	2

Group B

Aug 24: Al Ahly (Egy) 1 Chabab Belouizdad (Alg) 0.
Aug 26: ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 1 Petro Atletico (Ang) 2.
Sep 7: Chabab Belouizdad 0 Petro Atletico 1.
Sep 9: ASEC Abidjan 1 Al Ahly 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ahly	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Petro Atletico	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
ASEC Abidjan	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Chabab Bel	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 7: Zamalek (Egy) 1 Club Africain (Tun) 0.
Sep 9: Evico (Gab) 0 Kumbo Strikers (Cam) 1; Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) 0 Ismaili (Egy) 0; Niger Tornadoes (Nig) 1 Inter Luanda (Ang) 0.

CAF CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 9: Ferroviario (Moz) 2 Cotonsport (Cam) 2; Goldfields (Gha) 0 Africa Sports (IvC) 0; Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 0 JS Kabylie (Alg) 2.

ASIA

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Aug 18: Consadole Sapporo 2 FC Tokyo 5; Gamba Osaka 1 Jubilo Iwata 0; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 2 Urawa Reds 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Kashima Antlers 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 JEF United Ichihara 0; Avispa Fukuoka 4 Cerezo Osaka 0.
Aug 25: Urawa Reds 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; FC Tokyo 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2 (aet); Kashima Antlers 3 Gamba Osaka 1; Yokohama F Marinos 3 Consadole Sapporo 2 (aet); Jubilo Iwata 2 Vissel Kobe 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2; Cerezo Osaka 1 JEF United Ichihara 2; Avispa Fukuoka 2 Kashiwa Reysol 5.

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kashima Antlers	3	3	0	0	0	7	3	9
Yokohama FM	3	1	2	0	0	5	2	7
Sanfrecce H	3	2	0	0	1	9	4	6
Jubilo Iwata	3	2	0	0	1	5	2	6
Grampus Eight	3	2	0	0	1	7	6	6
JEF United	3	2	0	0	1	5	4	6
Vissel Kobe	3	2	0	0	1	5	4	6
FC Tokyo	3	1	0	1	1	8	6	4
Kashiwa Reysol	3	1	0	1	1	7	5	4
Avispa Fukuoka	3	1	0	0	2	6	6	3
Tokyo Verdy 1969	3	1	0	0	2	5	7	3
Urawa Reds	3	1	0	0	2	4	6	3
Gamba Osaka	3	1	0	0	2	4	6	3
Shimizu S-Pulse	3	0	1	0	2	4	6	2
Consadole Sapp	3	0	0	0	3	5	10	0
Cerezo Osaka	3	0	0	0	3	3	12	0

W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt

QUALIFYING UPDATE

AFRICA

5 teams qualify

SECOND ROUND

Group A

Angola, Cameroon, Libya, Togo, Zambia

18.06.00.....Angola-Zambia.....2-1
18.06.00.....Libya-Cameroon.....0-3
08.07.00.....Zambia-Togo.....2-0
09.07.00.....Cameroon-Angola.....3-0
28.01.01.....Angola-Libya.....3-1
28.01.01.....Togo-Cameroon.....0-2
23.02.01.....Libya-Togo.....3-3
25.02.01.....Cameroon-Zambia.....1-0
10.03.01.....Zambia-Libya.....2-0
11.03.01.....Togo-Angola.....1-1
21.04.01.....Zambia-Angola.....1-1
22.04.01.....Cameroon-Libya.....1-0
06.05.01.....Angola-Cameroon.....2-0
06.05.01.....Togo-Zambia.....3-2
29.06.01.....Libya-Angola.....1-1
01.07.01.....Cameroon-Togo.....2-0
14.07.01.....Zambia-Cameroon.....2-2
15.07.01.....Togo-Libya.....2-0
27.07.01.....Libya-Zambia.....2-4
29.07.01.....Angola-Togo.....1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	8	6	1	1	14	4	19
Angola	8	3	4	1	11	9	13
Zambia	8	3	2	3	14	11	11
Togo	8	2	3	3	10	13	9
Libya	8	0	2	6	7	19	2

Group B

Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan

17.06.00.....Nigeria-Sierra Leone.....2-0
18.06.00.....Sudan-Liberia.....2-0
09.07.00.....Ghana-Sierra Leone.....5-0
09.07.00.....Liberia-Nigeria.....2-1
27.01.01.....Nigeria-Sudan.....3-0
28.01.01.....Ghana-Liberia.....1-3
25.02.01.....Liberia-Sierra Leone.....1-0
25.02.01.....Sudan-Ghana.....1-0
09.03.01.....Ghana-Nigeria.....0-0
10.03.01.....Sierra Leone-Sudan.....0-2
21.04.01.....Sierra Leone-Nigeria.....1-0
22.04.01.....Liberia-Sudan.....2-0
05.05.01.....Nigeria-Liberia.....2-0
05.05.01.....Sierra Leone-Ghana.....1-1
01.07.01.....Liberia-Ghana.....1-2
01.07.01.....Sudan-Nigeria.....0-4
14.07.01.....Sierra Leone-Liberia.....0-1
15.07.01.....Ghana-Sudan.....1-0
29.07.01.....Nigeria-Ghana.....3-0
29.07.01.....Sudan-Sierra Leone.....3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	8	5	1	2	15	3	16
Liberia	8	5	0	3	10	8	15
Sudan	8	4	0	4	8	10	12
Ghana	8	3	2	3	10	9	11
Sierra Leone	8	1	1	6	2	15	4

Group C

Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal

16.06.00.....Algeria-Senegal.....1-1
17.06.00.....Namibia-Morocco.....0-0
09.07.00.....Morocco-Algeria.....2-1
09.07.00.....Senegal-Egypt.....0-0
26.01.01.....Algeria-Namibia.....1-0
28.01.01.....Egypt-Morocco.....0-0
24.02.01.....Morocco-Senegal.....0-0
24.02.01.....Namibia-Egypt.....1-1
10.03.01.....Senegal-Namibia.....4-0
11.03.01.....Egypt-Algeria.....5-2
21.04.01.....Morocco-Namibia.....3-0
21.04.01.....Senegal-Algeria.....3-0
04.05.01.....Algeria-Morocco.....1-2
06.05.01.....Egypt-Senegal.....1-0
30.06.01.....Morocco-Egypt.....1-0
30.06.01.....Namibia-Algeria.....0-4
13.07.01.....Egypt-Namibia.....8-2
14.07.01.....Senegal-Morocco.....1-0
21.07.01.....Algeria-Egypt.....1-1
21.07.01.....Namibia-Senegal.....0-5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	8	4	3	1	14	2	15
Morocco	8	4	3	1	8	3	15
Egypt	8	3	4	1	16	7	13
Algeria	8	2	2	4	11	14	8
Namibia	8	0	2	6	3	26	2

Group D

Congo, DR Congo, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Tunisia

18.06.00.....Ivory Coast-Tunisia.....2-2
18.06.00.....Madagascar-DR Congo.....3-0
08.07.00.....Tunisia-Madagascar.....1-0
09.07.00.....DR Congo-Congo.....2-0
28.01.01.....Congo-Tunisia.....1-2
28.01.01.....Madagascar-Ivory Coast.....1-3
25.02.01.....Tunisia-DR Congo.....6-0
10.03.01.....DR Congo-Ivory Coast.....1-2
22.04.01.....DR Congo-Madagascar.....1-0
22.04.01.....Ivory Coast-Congo.....2-0
27.04.01.....Congo-Madagascar.....2-0
05.05.01.....Madagascar-Tunisia.....0-2
06.05.01.....Congo-DR Congo.....1-1
20.05.01.....Tunisia-Ivory Coast.....1-1
01.07.01.....Ivory Coast-Madagascar.....6-0
01.07.01.....Tunisia-Congo.....6-0
15.07.01.....Congo-Ivory Coast.....1-1
15.07.01.....DR Congo-Tunisia.....0-3
29.07.01.....Ivory Coast-DR Congo.....1-2
29.07.01.....Madagascar-Congo.....1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	8	6	2	0	23	4	20
Ivory Coast	8	4	3	1	18	8	15
DR Congo	8	3	1	4	7	16	10
Madagascar	8	2	0	6	5	15	6
Congo	8	1	2	5	5	15	5

Group E

Burkina Faso, Guinea (expelled), Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe

17.06.00.....Malawi-Burkina Faso.....1-1
18.06.00.....Guinea-Zimbabwe.....(annulled) 3-0
09.07.00.....Burkina Faso-Guinea.....(annulled) 2-3
09.07.00.....Zimbabwe-South Africa**.....0-2
27.01.01.....South Africa-Burkina Faso.....1-0
28.01.01.....Guinea-Malawi.....(annulled) 1-1
24.02.01.....Burkina Faso-Zimbabwe.....1-2
25.02.01.....Malawi-South Africa.....1-2
11.03.01.....Zimbabwe-Malawi.....2-0
21.04.01.....Burkina Faso-Malawi.....4-2
05.05.01.....South Africa-Zimbabwe.....2-1
01.07.01.....Burkina Faso-South Africa.....1-1
14.07.01.....South Africa-Malawi.....2-0
15.07.01.....Zimbabwe-Burkina Faso.....1-0
28.07.01.....Malawi-Zimbabwe.....0-1

***Match abandoned after 82 minutes; result stood*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	6	5	1	0	10	3	16
Zimbabwe	6	4	0	2	7	5	12
Burkina Faso	6	1	2	3	7	8	5
Malawi	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Guinea expelled; results expunged

The five group winners qualify for the finals.

ASIA

Five down, five to go

ASIA'S World Cup qualifying campaign kicked off in mid-August and less than a month later, five of the 10 participants in the continent's final phase were looking for new coaching staff.

Not surprisingly, it was the Arab contingent who led the way. **Saudi Arabia**, notoriously short-tempered when it comes to coaching talent, were the first to give their man at the helm the shove out the door. Yugoslav Slobodan Santrac took over as head coach only in February, but he was soon to go the way of more illustrious predecessors following his side's 2-0 loss at the hands of Iran in Tehran.

The Saudis had only scraped a draw in their opening game, against Bahrain in Riyadh, with Obeid Al-Dosari equalising just seven minutes from time.

That result immediately put Santrac under immense pressure, and two strikes from Ali Daei in the Iranian capital proved fatal for the Saudis' coach.

His replacement is Nasser Al-Johar, the man who took over from Milan Macala at last year's Asian Cup and led the Saudis to the Final.

Also on the way out – on the same weekend – were **Iraq's** Adnan Hamd and Abdullah Saqr of the **United Arab Emirates**. But both met their ends in very different manners.

Hamd was fired two hours prior to his side's 1-0 loss to Saudi Arabia in neutral Bahrain – the Saudis refusing to travel to Baghdad because of the continuing diplomatic impasse between the two countries stemming from the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq had kicked off their campaign in impressive style, defeating Thailand 4-0 in Baghdad, but a loss to Bahrain a week later seems to have sparked the former Al Zawra coach's expulsion. Hamd, who had taken over from another Yugoslav, Milan Zivadinovic, earlier this year, was replaced by Croatian Rudolph Balean just hours before Iraq took on bitter rivals Iran.

Saqr, on the other hand, jumped before he was pushed, handing in his resignation after the UAE lost 2-0 to Qatar in Abu Dhabi a week after a 3-0 defeat in China. Dutchman Tini Ruijs, Saqr's assistant, has been appointed in his place.

The fourth coach to go was Bosnian Dzemal Hadziabdic of **Qatar**, who left after a 1-1 draw with Group B leaders China in Doha. Hadziabdic had originally submitted his resignation after a 2-1 defeat by Uzbekistan last month, but it was not accepted. The dropped points at home to China forced a change of heart.

German Bernd Stange was the next victim of the coaching cull, being fired by **Oman** following the side's 5-0 drubbing away to Uzbekistan.

He had also followed in the footsteps of Macala, replacing the Czech after he had led Oman into the second group stage of the qualifiers.

Stange's replacement is Rachid Jaber.

One man not having any concerns about his job after the initial stages of qualifying is **China's** Bora Milutinovic. The Serb was under pressure going into the current qualification stage since his side were favourites to top Group B and progress to the World Cup for the first time.

That 3-0 win over the UAE underlined their standing as top dogs, coming as it did a week after the UAE had hammered Uzbekistan 4-1 in Abu Dhabi.

A 2-0 victory away to Oman and the 1-1 draw in Qatar cemented China's place at the top of the group, fostering a growing air of confidence among the perennial under-achievers.

In Group A, **Iran** seemed to be heading for an easy ride after their win over Saudi Arabia, but a 0-0 draw against **Thailand** served to light the fires of doubt in the team's mind.

Croat coach Miroslav Blazevic was bombarded with abuse after a game which Peter Withe's Thailand should have won; nevertheless, the result provided a much-needed boost to the unfancied South-east Asians following their heavy defeat in Iraq.

But Iran recovered, beating Iraq 2-1 in Baghdad to go top of the group, the goals coming from Ali Karimi and Ali Daei.

Group A's surprise package have been **Bahrain**, who stood in second place behind Iran after three games.

Wolfgang Sidka's team followed up their draw in Riyadh with a 2-0 win over Iraq and a 1-1 draw at home to Thailand. Sidka was unfazed about his team's success. "For us these results are no surprise," said the German. "We beat Kuwait [in the first round of qualifying] and it was not by accident. The players have worked hard and I know that they are doing well. I speak with them every day and I'm trying to get them to do more than they did in the past."

Michael Church

2 or 3 teams qualify, plus hosts Japan and South Korea

SECOND ROUND

Group A

Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Thailand

17.08.01.....Iraq-Thailand.....4-0
17.08.01.....Saudi Arabia-Bahrain.....1-1
23.08.01.....Bahrain-Iraq.....2-0
24.08.01.....Iran-Saudi Arabia.....2-0
31.08.01.....Saudi Arabia-Iraq.....1-0
01.09.01.....Thailand-Iran.....0-0
06.09.01.....Bahrain-Thailand.....1-1
07.09.01.....Iraq-Iran.....1-2
14.09.01.....Iran-Bahrain
15.09.01.....Thailand-Saudi Arabia
21.09.01.....Bahrain-Saudi Arabia
22.09.01.....Thailand-Iraq
28.09.01.....Iraq-Bahrain
28.09.01.....Saudi Arabia-Iran
05.10.01.....Iran-Thailand
05.10.01.....Iraq-Saudi Arabia
12.10.01.....Iran-Iraq
13.10.01.....Thailand-Bahrain
19.10.01.....Bahrain-Iran
19.10.01.....Saudi Arabia-Thailand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Bahrain	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Saudi Arabia	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Iraq	4	1	0	3	5	5	3
Thailand	3	0	2	1	1	5	2

Group B

China, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

16.08.01.....Qatar-Oman.....0-0
17.08.01.....United Arab Emirates-Uzbekistan...4-1
25.08.01.....China-United Arab Emirates.....3-0
26.08.01.....Uzbekistan-Qatar.....2-1
31.08.01.....United Arab Emirates-Qatar.....0-2
31.08.01.....Oman-China.....0-2
07.09.01.....Qatar-China.....1-1
08.09.01.....Uzbekistan-Oman.....5-0
14.09.01.....Oman-United Arab Emirates
15.09.01.....China-Uzbekistan
21.09.01.....Oman-Qatar
22.09.01.....Uzbekistan-United Arab Emirates
27.09.01.....United Arab Emirates-China
28.09.01.....Qatar-Uzbekistan
04.10.01.....Qatar-United Arab Emirates
07.10.01.....China-Oman
13.10.01.....Oman-Uzbekistan
13.10.01.....China-Qatar
19.10.01.....United Arab Emirates-Oman
19.10.01.....Uzbekistan-China

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Uzbekistan	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Qatar	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
UAE	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Oman	3	0	1	2	0	7	1

Ties to be played on a home and away basis. The two group winners qualify directly for the finals. The two runners-up play-off home and away, the winners going on to meet the runners-up of European Group 2 in a play-off.

ASIAN/EUROPEAN PLAY-OFF

10.11.01 .....Euro Gp 2 runners-up-Asian 3rd-place
15.11.01 .....Asian 3rd-place-Euro Gp 2 runners-up

The match winners qualify for the finals.

EUROPE

13 or 14 teams qualify, plus holders France

Group 1

Faroe Islands, Luxembourg, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Yugoslavia

02.09.00.....Switzerland-Russia.....0-1
03.09.00.....Faroe Islands-Slovenia.....2-2
03.09.00.....Luxembourg-Yugoslavia.....0-2
07.10.00.....Luxembourg-Slovenia.....1-2
07.10.00.....Switzerland-Faroe Islands.....5-1
11.10.00.....Russia-Luxembourg.....3-0
11.10.00.....Slovenia-Switzerland.....2-2
24.03.01.....Luxembourg-Faroe Islands.....0-2
24.03.01.....Russia-Slovenia.....1-1
24.03.01.....Yugoslavia-Switzerland.....1-1
28.03.01.....Russia-Faroe Islands.....1-0
28.03.01.....Slovenia-Yugoslavia.....1-1
28.03.01.....Switzerland-Luxembourg.....5-0
25.04.01.....Yugoslavia-Russia.....0-1
02.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Switzerland.....0-1
02.06.01.....Russia-Yugoslavia.....1-1
02.06.01.....Slovenia-Luxembourg.....2-0
06.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Yugoslavia.....0-6
06.06.01.....Luxembourg-Russia.....1-2
06.06.01.....Switzerland-Slovenia.....0-1
15.08.01.....Yugoslavia-Faroe Islands.....2-0
01.09.01.....Faroe Islands-Luxembourg.....1-0
01.09.01.....Slovenia-Russia.....2-1
01.09.01.....Switzerland-Yugoslavia.....1-2
05.09.01.....Faroe Islands-Russia.....0-3
05.09.01.....Luxembourg-Switzerland.....0-3
05.09.01.....Yugoslavia-Slovenia.....1-1
06.10.01.....Russia-Switzerland
06.10.01.....Slovenia-Faroe Islands
06.10.01.....Yugoslavia-Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	9	6	2	1	14	5	20
Slovenia	9	4	5	0	14	9	17
Yugoslavia	9	4	4	1	16	6	16
Switzerland	9	4	2	3	18	8	14
Faroe Islands	9	2	1	6	6	20	7
Luxembourg	9	0	0	9	2	22	0

Group 2

Andorra, Cyprus, Estonia, Holland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland

16.08.00.....Estonia-Andorra.....1-0
02.09.00.....Andorra-Cyprus.....2-3
02.09.00.....Holland-Rep of Ireland.....2-2
03.09.00.....Estonia-Portugal.....1-3
07.10.00.....Andorra-Estonia.....1-2
07.10.00.....Cyprus-Holland.....0-4
07.10.00.....Portugal-Rep of Ireland.....1-1
11.10.00.....Holland-Portugal.....0-2
11.10.00.....Rep of Ireland-Estonia.....2-0
15.11.00.....Cyprus-Andorra.....5-0
28.02.01.....Portugal-Andorra.....3-0
24.03.01.....Andorra-Holland.....0-5
24.03.01.....Cyprus-Rep of Ireland.....0-4
28.03.01.....Andorra-Rep of Ireland.....0-3
28.03.01.....Cyprus-Estonia.....2-2
28.03.01.....Portugal-Holland.....2-2
25.04.01.....Holland-Cyprus.....4-0
25.04.01.....Rep of Ireland-Andorra.....3-1
02.06.01.....Estonia-Holland.....2-4
02.06.01.....Rep of Ireland-Portugal.....1-1
06.06.01.....Estonia-Rep of Ireland.....0-2
06.06.01.....Portugal-Cyprus.....6-0
15.08.01.....Estonia-Cyprus.....2-2
01.09.01.....Andorra-Portugal.....1-7
01.09.01.....Rep of Ireland-Holland.....1-0
05.09.01.....Cyprus-Portugal.....1-3
05.09.01.....Holland-Estonia.....5-0
06.10.01.....Holland-Andorra
06.10.01.....Portugal-Estonia
06.10.01.....Rep of Ireland-Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	9	6	3	0	28	7	21
Rep of Ireland	9	6	3	0	19	5	21
Holland	9	5	2	2	26	9	17
Estonia	9	2	2	5	10	21	8
Cyprus	9	2	2	5	13	27	8
Andorra	9	0	0	9	5	32	0

Group 3

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Malta, Northern Ireland

02.09.00.....Bulgaria-Czech Republic.....0-1
02.09.00.....Iceland-Denmark.....1-2
02.09.00.....Northern Ireland-Malta.....1-0
07.10.00.....Bulgaria-Malta.....3-0
07.10.00.....Czech Republic-Iceland.....4-0
07.10.00.....Northern Ireland-Denmark.....1-1
11.10.00.....Denmark-Bulgaria.....1-1
11.10.00.....Iceland-Northern Ireland.....1-0
11.10.00.....Malta-Czech Republic.....0-0
24.03.01.....Bulgaria-Iceland.....2-1
24.03.01.....Malta-Denmark.....0-5
24.03.01.....Northern Ireland-Czech Republic...0-1
28.03.01.....Bulgaria-Northern Ireland.....4-3
28.03.01.....Czech Republic-Denmark.....0-0
25.04.01.....Malta-Iceland.....1-4
02.06.01.....Denmark-Czech Republic.....2-1
02.06.01.....Iceland-Malta.....3-0
02.06.01.....Northern Ireland-Bulgaria.....0-1
06.06.01.....Czech Republic-Northern Ireland...3-1
06.06.01.....Denmark-Malta.....2-1
06.06.01.....Iceland-Bulgaria.....1-1
01.09.01.....Denmark-Northern Ireland.....1-1
01.09.01.....Iceland-Czech Republic.....3-1
01.09.01.....Malta-Bulgaria.....0-2
05.09.01.....Bulgaria-Denmark.....0-2
05.09.01.....Czech Republic-Malta.....3-2
05.09.01.....Northern Ireland-Iceland.....3-0
06.10.01.....Czech Republic-Bulgaria
06.10.01.....Denmark-Iceland
06.10.01.....Malta-Northern Ireland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	9	5	4	0	16	6	19
Czech Republic	9	5	2	2	14	8	17
Bulgaria	9	5	2	2	14	9	17
Iceland	9	4	1	4	14	14	13
Northern Ireland	9	2	2	5	10	12	8
Malta	9	0	1	8	4	23	1

Group 4

Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Moldova, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey

02.09.00 .....Azerbaijan-Sweden.....0-1
02.09.00 .....Turkey-Moldova.....2-0
03.09.00 .....Slovakia-Macedonia.....2-0
06.10.00 .....Macedonia-Azerbaijan.....3-0
07.10.00 .....Moldova-Slovakia.....0-1
07.10.00 .....Sweden-Turkey.....1-1
11.10.00 .....Azerbaijan-Turkey.....0-1
11.10.00 .....Moldova-Macedonia.....0-0
11.10.00 .....Slovakia-Sweden.....0-0
24.03.01 .....Azerbaijan-Moldova.....0-0
24.03.01 .....Sweden-Macedonia.....1-0
24.03.01 .....Turkey-Slovakia.....1-1
28.03.01 .....Macedonia-Turkey.....1-2
28.03.01 .....Moldova-Sweden.....0-2
28.03.01 .....Slovakia-Azerbaijan.....3-1
02.06.01 .....Macedonia-Moldova.....2-2
02.06.01 .....Sweden-Slovakia.....2-0
02.06.01 .....Turkey-Azerbaijan.....3-0
06.06.01 .....Azerbaijan-Slovakia.....2-0
06.06.01 .....Sweden-Moldova.....6-0
06.06.01 .....Turkey-Macedonia.....3-3
01.09.01 .....Macedonia-Sweden.....1-2
01.09.01 .....Moldova-Azerbaijan.....2-0
01.09.01 .....Slovakia-Turkey.....0-1
05.09.01 .....Azerbaijan-Macedonia.....1-1
05.09.01 .....Slovakia-Moldova.....4-2
05.09.01 .....Turkey-Sweden.....1-2
07.10.01 .....Macedonia-Slovakia
07.10.01 .....Moldova-Turkey
07.10.01 .....Sweden-Azerbaijan

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	9	7	2	0	17	3	23
Turkey	9	5	3	1	15	8	18
Slovakia	9	4	2	3	11	9	14
Macedonia	9	1	4	4	11	13	7
Moldova	9	1	3	5	6	17	6
Azerbaijan	9	1	2	6	4	14	5

Group 5

Armenia, Belarus, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, Wales

02.09.00 .....Belarus-Wales.....2-1
02.09.00 .....Norway-Armenia.....0-0
02.09.00 .....Ukraine-Poland.....1-3
07.10.00 .....Armenia-Ukraine.....2-3
07.10.00 .....Poland-Belarus.....3-1
07.10.00 .....Wales-Norway.....1-1
11.10.00 .....Belarus-Armenia.....2-1
11.10.00 .....Norway-Ukraine.....0-1
11.10.00 .....Poland-Wales.....0-0
24.03.01 .....Armenia-Wales.....2-2
24.03.01 .....Norway-Poland.....2-3
24.03.01 .....Ukraine-Belarus.....0-0
28.03.01 .....Belarus-Norway.....2-1
28.03.01 .....Poland-Armenia.....4-0
28.03.01 .....Wales-Ukraine.....1-1
02.06.01 .....Armenia-Belarus.....0-0
02.06.01 .....Ukraine-Norway.....0-0
02.06.01 .....Wales-Poland.....1-2
06.06.01 .....Armenia-Poland.....1-1
06.06.01 .....Norway-Belarus.....1-1
06.06.01 .....Ukraine-Wales.....1-1
01.09.01 .....Belarus-Ukraine.....0-2
01.09.01 .....Poland-Norway.....3-0
01.09.01 .....Wales-Armenia.....0-0
05.09.01 .....Belarus-Poland.....4-1
05.09.01 .....Norway-Wales.....3-2
05.09.01 .....Ukraine-Armenia.....3-0
06.10.01 .....Armenia-Norway
06.10.01 .....Poland-Ukraine
06.10.01 .....Wales-Belarus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	9	6	2	1	20	10	20
Ukraine	9	4	4	1	12	7	16
Belarus	9	4	3	2	12	10	15
Norway	9	1	4	4	8	13	7
Wales	9	0	6	3	9	12	6
Armenia	9	0	5	4	6	15	5

Group 6

Belgium, Croatia, Latvia, San Marino, Scotland

02.09.00.....Belgium-Croatia.....0-0
02.09.00.....Latvia-Scotland.....0-1
07.10.00.....Latvia-Belgium.....0-4
07.10.00.....San Marino-Scotland.....0-2
11.10.00.....Croatia-Scotland.....1-1
15.11.00.....San Marino-Latvia.....0-1
28.02.01.....Belgium-San Marino.....10-1
24.03.01.....Croatia-Latvia.....4-1
24.03.01.....Scotland-Belgium.....2-2
28.03.01.....Scotland-San Marino.....4-0
25.04.01.....Latvia-San Marino.....1-1
02.06.01.....Belgium-Latvia.....3-1
02.06.01.....Croatia-San Marino.....4-0
06.06.01.....Latvia-Croatia.....0-1
06.06.01.....San Marino-Belgium.....1-4
01.09.01.....Scotland-Croatia.....0-0
05.09.01.....Belgium-Scotland.....2-0
05.09.01.....San Marino-Croatia.....0-4
06.10.01.....Croatia-Belgium
06.10.01.....Scotland-Latvia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	7	5	2	0	25	5	17
Croatia	7	4	3	0	14	2	15
Scotland	7	3	3	1	10	5	12
Latvia	7	1	1	5	4	14	4
San Marino	8	0	1	7	3	30	1

Group 7

Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel, Liechtenstein, Spain

02.09.00 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain.....1-2
03.09.00 .....Israel-Liechtenstein.....2-0
07.10.00 .....Liechtenstein-Austria.....0-1
07.10.00 .....Spain-Israel.....2-0
11.10.00 .....Austria-Spain.....1-1
11.10.00 .....Israel-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....3-1
24.03.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Austria.....1-1
24.03.01 .....Spain-Liechtenstein.....5-0
28.03.01 .....Austria-Israel.....2-1
28.03.01 .....Liechtenstein-Bosnia-Herz.....0-3
25.04.01 .....Austria-Liechtenstein.....2-0
02.06.01 .....Liechtenstein-Israel.....0-3
02.06.01 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....4-1
06.06.01 .....Israel-Spain.....1-1
01.09.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Israel.....0-0
01.09.01 .....Spain-Austria.....4-0
05.09.01 .....Austria-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....2-0
05.09.01 .....Liechtenstein-Spain.....0-2
07.10.01 .....Bosnia-Herz-Liechtenstein
07.10.01 .....Israel-Austria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	6	2	0	21	4	20
Austria	7	4	2	1	9	7	14
Israel	7	3	2	2	10	6	11
Bosnia-Herz	7	1	2	4	7	12	5
Liechtenstein	7	0	0	7	0	18	0

Group 8

Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Romania

03.09.00 .....Hungary-Italy.....2-2
03.09.00 .....Romania-Lithuania.....1-0
07.10.00 .....Italy-Romania.....3-0
07.10.00 .....Lithuania-Georgia.....0-4
11.10.00 .....Italy-Georgia.....2-0
11.10.00 .....Lithuania-Hungary.....1-6
24.03.01 .....Hungary-Lithuania.....1-1
24.03.01 .....Romania-Italy.....0-2
28.03.01 .....Georgia-Romania.....0-2
28.03.01 .....Italy-Lithuania.....4-0
02.06.01 .....Georgia-Italy.....1-2
02.06.01 .....Romania-Hungary.....2-0
06.06.01 .....Hungary-Georgia.....4-1

2002 WORLD CUP

06.06.01 .....Lithuania-Romania.....1-2
01.09.01 .....Georgia-Hungary.....3-1
01.09.01 .....Lithuania-Italy.....0-0
05.09.01 .....Georgia-Lithuania.....2-0
05.09.01 .....Hungary-Romania.....0-2
06.10.01 .....Italy-Hungary
06.10.01 .....Romania-Georgia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	7	5	2	0	15	3	17
Romania	7	5	0	2	9	6	15
Georgia	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
Hungary	7	2	2	3	14	12	8
Lithuania	8	0	2	6	3	20	2

Group B

Albania, England, Finland, Germany, Greece

02.09.00.....Finland-Albania.....2-1
02.09.00.....Germany-Greece.....2-0
07.10.00.....England-Germany.....0-1
07.10.00.....Greece-Finland.....1-0
11.10.00.....Albania-Greece.....2-0
11.10.00.....Finland-England.....0-0
24.03.01.....England-Finland.....2-1
24.03.01.....Germany-Albania.....2-1
28.03.01.....Albania-England.....1-3
28.03.01.....Greece-Germany.....2-4
02.06.01.....Finland-Germany.....2-2
02.06.01.....Greece-Albania.....1-0
06.06.01.....Albania-Germany.....0-2
06.06.01.....Greece-England.....0-2
01.09.01.....Albania-Finland.....0-2
01.09.01.....Germany-England.....1-5
05.09.01.....England-Albania.....2-0
05.09.01.....Finland-Greece.....5-1
06.10.01.....England-Greece
06.10.01.....Germany-Finland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	7	5	1	1	14	4	16
Germany	7	5	1	1	14	10	16
Finland	7	3	2	2	12	7	11
Greece	7	2	0	5	5	15	6
Albania	8	1	0	7	5	14	3

Group winners qualify automatically for the finals. The nine group runners-up and the third-placed Asian team will play-off in five head-to-head ties, the winners of which also qualify for the finals.

PLAY-OFFS

10/11.11.01 ...Gp 1 runners-up-Gp 8 runners-up
10/11.11.01 ...Gp 5 runners-up-Gp 9 runners-up
10/11.11.01 ...Gp 6 runners-up-Gp 3 runners-up
10/11.11.01 ...Gp 7 runners-up-Gp 4 runners-up
10.11.01 .....Gp 2 runners-up-3rd-placed Asian team

14.11.01 .....Gp 8 runners-up-Gp 1 runners-up
14.11.01 .....Gp 9 runners-up-Gp 5 runners-up
14.11.01 .....Gp 3 runners-up-Gp 6 runners-up
14.11.01 .....Gp 4 runners-up-Gp 7 runners-up
15.11.01 .....3rd-placed Asian team-Gp 2 runners-up

The five match winners qualify for the finals.

THE FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

3 teams qualify

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States qualified directly for the semi-final round.

Group C

Canada, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago

16.07.00.....Canada-Trinidad & Tobago.....0-2
16.07.00.....Panama-Mexico.....0-1
23.07.00.....Panama-Canada.....0-0
23.07.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico.....1-0
15.08.00.....Mexico-Canada.....2-0
16.08.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Panama.....6-0
03.09.00.....Mexico-Panama.....7-1
03.09.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Canada.....4-0
08.10.00.....Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago.....7-0
09.10.00.....Canada-Panama.....1-0
15.11.00.....Canada-Mexico.....0-0
15.11.00.....Panama-Trinidad & Tobago*.....0-1
**Tie played in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad & Tob	6	5	0	1	14	7	15
Mexico	6	4	1	1	17	2	13
Canada	6	1	2	3	1	8	5
Panama	6	0	1	5	1	16	1

Group D

El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, St Vincent & The Grenadines

16.07.00.....El Salvador-Honduras.....2-5
16.07.00.....St Vincent-Jamaica.....0-1
23.07.00.....El Salvador-St Vincent.....7-1
23.07.00.....Jamaica-Honduras.....3-1
16.08.00.....Honduras-St Vincent.....6-0
16.08.00.....Jamaica-El Salvador.....1-0
02.09.00.....Honduras-El Salvador.....5-0
03.09.00.....Jamaica-St Vincent.....2-0
08.10.00.....Honduras-Jamaica.....1-0
08.10.00.....St Vincent-El Salvador.....1-2
14.11.00.....St Vincent-Honduras.....0-7
15.11.00.....El Salvador-Jamaica.....2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras	6	5	0	1	25	5	15
Jamaica	6	4	0	2	7	4	12
El Salvador	6	3	0	3	13	13	9
St Vincent	6	0	0	6	2	25	0

Group E

Barbados, Costa Rica, Guatemala, United States

16.07.00.....Barbados-Costa Rica.....2-1
16.07.00.....Guatemala-United States.....1-1
22.07.00.....Guatemala-Barbados.....2-0
23.07.00.....Costa Rica-United States.....2-1
15.08.00.....Costa Rica-Guatemala.....2-1
16.08.00.....United States-Barbados.....7-0
03.09.00.....Costa Rica-Barbados.....3-0
03.09.00.....United States-Guatemala.....1-0
08.10.00.....Barbados-Guatemala.....1-3
11.10.00.....United States-Costa Rica.....0-0
15.11.00.....Barbados-United States.....0-4
15.11.00.....Guatemala-Costa Rica.....2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	6	3	2	1	14	3	11
Costa Rica**	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Guatemala**	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Barbados	6	1	0	5	3	20	3

The top two from each group qualified for the Final round group of six.

***Play-off required because head-to-head and overall group records were identical.*

SEMI-FINAL ROUND PLAY-OFF

06.01.01.....Costa Rica-Guatemala.....5-2
Tie played in Miami

FINAL ROUND

Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, United States

28.02.01 .....Costa Rica-Honduras.....2-2
28.02.01 .....Jamaica-Trinidad & Tobago.....1-0
28.02.01 .....United States-Mexico.....2-0
25.03.01 .....Mexico-Jamaica.....4-0
28.03.01 .....Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tobago.....3-0
28.03.01 .....Honduras-United States.....1-2
25.04.01 .....Jamaica-Honduras.....1-1
25.04.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico.....1-1
25.04.01 .....United States-Costa Rica.....1-0
16.06.01 .....Jamaica-United States.....0-0
16.06.01 .....Mexico-Costa Rica.....1-2
16.06.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Honduras.....2-4
20.06.01 .....Costa Rica-Jamaica.....2-1
20.06.01 .....Honduras-Mexico.....3-1
20.06.01 .....United States-Trinidad & Tobago.....2-0
30.06.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Jamaica.....1-2
01.07.01 .....Honduras-Costa Rica.....2-3
01.07.01 .....Mexico-United States.....1-0
01.09.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Costa Rica.....0-2
01.09.01 .....United States-Honduras.....2-3
02.09.01 .....Jamaica-Mexico.....1-2
05.09.01 .....Costa Rica-United States.....2-0
05.09.01 .....Honduras-Jamaica.....1-0
05.09.01 .....Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago.....3-0
07.10.01 .....Costa Rica-Mexico
07.10.01 .....Honduras-Trinidad & Tobago
07.10.01 .....United States-Jamaica
11.11.01 .....Jamaica-Costa Rica
11.11.01 .....Mexico-Honduras
11.11.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-United States

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	8	6	1	1	16	7	19
Honduras	8	4	2	2	17	13	14
Mexico	8	4	1	3	13	9	13
United States	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
Jamaica	8	2	2	4	6	11	8
Trinidad & Tob	8	0	1	7	4	18	1

The top three qualify for the finals.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 team(s) qualify

FIRST ROUND

Group 1

American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga

07.04.01.....Samoa-Tonga.....0-1
07.04.01.....Fiji-American Samoa.....13-0
09.04.01.....Tonga-Australia.....0-22
09.04.01.....American Samoa-Samoa.....0-8
11.04.01.....Samoa-Fiji.....1-6
11.04.01.....Australia-American Samoa.....31-0
14.04.01.....Fiji-Australia.....0-2
14.04.01.....American Samoa-Tonga.....0-5
16.04.01.....Australia-Samoa.....11-0
16.04.01.....Tonga-Fiji.....1-8
All ties played in Coffs Harbour, Australia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia*	4	4	0	0	66	0	12
Fiji	4	3	0	1	27	4	9
Tonga	4	2	0	2	7	30	6
Samoa	4	1	0	3	9	18	3
American Samoa	4	0	0	4	0	57	0

**Qualified for Oceania play-off*

Group 2

Cook Islands, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu

04.06.01 .....Vanuatu-Tahiti.....1-6
04.06.01 .....Solomon Islands-Cook Islands.....9-1
06.06.01 .....Tahiti-New Zealand.....0-5
06.06.01 .....Cook Islands-Vanuatu.....1-8
08.06.01 .....Vanuatu-Solomon Islands.....2-7
08.06.01 .....New Zealand-Cook Islands.....2-0
11.06.01 .....Solomon Islands-New Zealand.....1-5
11.06.01 .....Cook Islands-Tahiti.....0-6
13.06.01 .....New Zealand-Vanuatu.....7-0
13.06.01 .....Tahiti-Solomon Islands.....2-0
All ties played in Auckland, New Zealand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand*	4	4	0	0	19	1	12
Tahiti	4	3	0	1	14	6	9
Solomon Islands	4	2	0	2	17	10	6
Vanuatu	4	1	0	3	11	21	3
Cook Islands	4	0	0	4	2	25	0

**Qualified for Oceania play-off*

OCEANIA PLAY-OFF

20.06.01 .....New Zealand-Australia.....0-2
24.06.01 .....Australia-New Zealand.....4-1
.....*Australia 6-1 on agg*

Australia will play home and away against the fifth-placed South American team for a place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

4 or 5 teams qualify

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

28.03.00 .....Colombia-Brazil.....0-0
29.03.00 .....Argentina-Chile.....4-1
29.03.00 .....Ecuador-Venezuela.....2-0
29.03.00 .....Peru-Paraguay.....2-0
29.03.00 .....Uruguay-Bolivia.....1-0
26.04.00 .....Bolivia-Colombia.....1-1
26.04.00 .....Brazil-Ecuador.....3-2
26.04.00 .....Chile-Peru.....1-1
26.04.00 .....Paraguay-Uruguay.....1-0
26.04.00 .....Venezuela-Argentina.....0-4
03.06.00 .....Paraguay-Ecuador.....3-1
03.06.00 .....Uruguay-Chile.....2-1
04.06.00 .....Argentina-Bolivia.....1-0
04.06.00 .....Colombia-Venezuela.....3-0
04.06.00 .....Peru-Brazil.....0-1
28.06.00 .....Brazil-Uruguay.....1-1
28.06.00 .....Venezuela-Bolivia.....4-2
29.06.00 .....Chile-Paraguay.....3-1
29.06.00 .....Colombia-Argentina.....1-3
29.06.00 .....Ecuador-Peru.....2-1
18.07.00 .....Paraguay-Brazil.....2-1
18.07.00 .....Uruguay-Venezuela.....3-1
19.07.00 .....Argentina-Ecuador.....2-0
19.07.00 .....Bolivia-Chile.....1-0
19.07.00 .....Peru-Colombia.....0-1
25.07.00 .....Ecuador-Colombia.....0-0
25.07.00 .....Venezuela-Chile.....0-2
26.07.00 .....Brazil-Argentina.....3-1
26.07.00 .....Uruguay-Peru.....0-0
27.07.00 .....Bolivia-Paraguay.....0-0
15.08.00 .....Chile-Brazil.....3-0
15.08.00 .....Colombia-Uruguay.....1-0
16.08.00 .....Argentina-Paraguay.....1-1
16.08.00 .....Ecuador-Bolivia.....2-0
16.08.00 .....Peru-Venezuela.....1-0
02.09.00 .....Chile-Colombia.....0-1
02.09.00 .....Paraguay-Venezuela.....3-0
03.09.00 .....Brazil-Bolivia.....5-0
03.09.00 .....Peru-Argentina.....1-2
03.09.00 .....Uruguay-Ecuador.....4-0
07.10.00 .....Colombia-Paraguay.....0-2
08.10.00 .....Argentina-Uruguay.....2-1
08.10.00 .....Bolivia-Peru.....1-0
08.10.00 .....Ecuador-Chile.....1-0
08.10.00 .....Venezuela-Brazil.....0-6
15.11.00 .....Bolivia-Uruguay.....0-0
15.11.00 .....Brazil-Colombia.....1-0
15.11.00 .....Chile-Argentina.....0-2
15.11.00 .....Paraguay-Peru.....5-1
15.11.00 .....Venezuela-Ecuador.....1-2
27.03.01 .....Colombia-Bolivia.....2-0
27.03.01 .....Peru-Chile.....3-1
28.03.01 .....Argentina-Venezuela.....5-0
28.03.01 .....Ecuador-Brazil.....1-0
28.03.01 .....Uruguay-Paraguay.....0-1
24.04.01 .....Chile-Uruguay.....0-1
24.04.01 .....Ecuador-Paraguay.....2-1
24.04.01 .....Venezuela-Colombia.....2-2
25.04.01 .....Bolivia-Argentina.....3-3
25.04.01 .....Brazil-Peru.....1-1
02.06.01 .....Paraguay-Chile.....1-0
02.06.01 .....Peru-Ecuador.....1-2
03.06.01 .....Argentina-Colombia.....3-0
03.06.01 .....Bolivia-Venezuela.....5-0
01.07.01 .....Uruguay-Brazil.....1-0
14.08.01 .....Chile-Bolivia.....2-2
14.08.01 .....Venezuela-Uruguay.....2-0
15.08.01 .....Brazil-Paraguay.....2-0
15.08.01 .....Ecuador-Argentina.....0-2
16.08.01 .....Colombia-Peru.....0-1
04.09.01 .....Chile-Venezuela.....0-2
04.09.01 .....Peru-Uruguay.....0-2
05.09.01 .....Argentina-Brazil.....2-1
05.09.01 .....Colombia-Ecuador.....0-0
05.09.01 .....Paraguay-Bolivia.....5-1
06.10.01 .....Bolivia-Ecuador
06.10.01 .....Brazil-Chile
06.10.01 .....Paraguay-Argentina
06.10.01 .....Uruguay-Colombia
06.10.01 .....Venezuela-Peru
07.11.01 .....Argentina-Peru
07.11.01 .....Bolivia-Brazil
07.11.01 .....Colombia-Chile
07.11.01 .....Ecuador-Uruguay
07.11.01 .....Venezuela-Paraguay
14.11.01 .....Brazil-Venezuela
14.11.01 .....Chile-Ecuador
14.11.01 .....Paraguay-Colombia
14.11.01 .....Peru-Bolivia
14.11.01 .....Uruguay-Argentina

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	15	12	2	1	37	12	38
Paraguay	15	9	2	4	26	14	29
Ecuador	15	8	2	5	17	18	26
Brazil	15	7	3	5	25	14	24
Uruguay	15	7	3	5	16	10	24
Colombia	15	5	5	5	12	13	20
Peru	15	4	3	8	13	19	15
Bolivia	15	3	5	7	16	26	14
Chile	15	3	2	10	14	22	11
Venezuela	15	3	1	11	12	40	10

The top four teams qualify automatically for the finals. The fifth-placed team play off against Australia for a place in the finals.

Chievo achieve the unthinkable

Paddy Agnew on the surprise pacesetters of Serie A

New boys march on...Cossato beats Pagliuca to score Chievo's second goal against Bologna

THIS COULD well be an autumn when the word 'fairytale' will be much used, if not abused, in Italian soccer. Serie A debutants Chievo Verona are the reason and their splendid start to their first season in the top flight provided one of those delightful reminders that, if only for a few weeks, even the minnows can come out to play.

Two-nil wins against Fiorentina and Bologna on the first two weekends of the season set up little Chievo for the most unlikely 'top of the table' clash with the 'Old Lady', Juventus, since only these two managed to win both their opening games.

To say this game represents a David v Goliath clash is a bit like saying that Germany were slightly disappointing in the 5-1 World Cup drubbing by England. Juventus are Italy's most famous and most successful club, while Chievo come from a Verona suburb which claims fewer than 4,000 residents.

Remarkably, given its population, Chievo had registered 4,505 season ticket holders by the second week of the season.

Built around the side that won promotion from Serie B and containing journeymen such as former Bologna midfielder Eriberto, 31-year-old ex-Juventus midfielder Eugenio Corini and ex-Reggina striker Massimo Marazinna, Chievo are obviously unlikely to remain long on top of Serie A.

However, their bright start to the season brought a smile to many faces as well as reinforcing the old adage that willpower, enthusiasm and commitment can sometimes compensate for technical and financial shortcomings.

If Chievo's good start was a surprise, the same can hardly be said of Juventus. Easy 4-0 and 2-0 wins over Venezia and Atalanta only underlined what we had already suspected. Namely, that the Old Lady, with Marcello Lippi back in charge and with a host of new names such as French defender Lilian Thuram, Chilean striker Marcelo Salas and Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved, is hungry for success.

Add to those names, the emergence of a playmaking talent in Alessio Tacchinardi, an Alessandro Del Piero apparently in his best form of the past four seasons, the imminent return of Dutchman Edgar Davids from his drugs ban and the conclusion is all too evident – that even at this early stage Juventus are favourites to win the Serie A title.

Nor can we be surprised by the relatively slow starts made by the two Romans, Lazio and champions Roma, both held to draws in their opening two games. Roma still have to shake off their title celebration hangover, while Lazio are currently launched on a rebuilding scheme.

It is always difficult to win back to back Italian titles and Roma immediately got a taste of what they can expect when they were chased around the park by a fitter-looking, more determined Verona in a 1-1 opening day away draw. Two weeks later, they were hardly more impressive in a second 1-1 draw at home to a gritty Udinese side that already bears the organisational stamp of the wandering English minstrel himself, Roy Hodgson.

The suspicion that Roma minds were not fully concentrated on their game had been confirmed on the eve of the new season when a row broke out over a bonus, allegedly due to the players for their 3-0 Italian Supercup win over Fiorentina in August.

The row soon passed over, with the players offering an abject apology to owner Franco Sensi via captain Francesco Totti. Yet a bad smell was left hanging in the air for a few days and was hardly blown away when coach Fabio Capello appeared to criticise the club and Sensi for their less than diplomatic handling of the issue.

While Roma learn the joys of settling into their

new role as champions, cross-town rivals Lazio have set about a rebuilding process that, initially at least, may cost them vital Serie A points. Draws against Piacenza and Perugia underlined the fact that the new contingent, including such as Stefano Fiore, Spaniard Gaizka Mendieta and Giuliano Giannichedda, had not yet adjusted to their new surroundings.

Lazio, however, did receive some unexpected early-season boosts to their campaign. Firstly, they were able to profit from an apparently sudden and bitter falling-out between Manchester United's Dutch international defender Jaap Stam and manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

Lazio were in the market for a solid defensive partner to line up alongside captain Alessandro Nesta and they could hardly believe their luck when word came through that United wanted to sell Stam. Looking somewhat confused and bewildered and certainly a less-than-happy camper, Stam arrived at Formello on a hot Monday morning in late August for a £16million fee.

A week after Stam's arrival, the club received a long-reserved vote of confidence from food products magnate owner Sergio Cragnotti. Disgusted with his fans' racist behaviour last season, Cragnotti had encouraged Lazio to organise a friendly tournament against Israeli team Maccabi Haifa and Ivory Coast club ASEC Mimosas in the first week of September.

Even if only 9,000 fans turned out to watch, Cragnotti pronounced himself well pleased with the initiative and promised that he would repeat it next season, perhaps in the challenging surrounds of the Gaza Strip in the Middle East. More important from the Lazio viewpoint was Cragnotti's confirmation of continuing commitment to his club.

'Lazio were in the market for a solid partner for Nesta and could hardly believe their luck when word came through that Man United wanted to sell Jaap Stam'

Reprieve...Edgar Davids' five-month ban for testing positive for nandrolone has been reduced by a month

Ten days after the tournament, Dame Fortune smiled once more on Lazio when in a controversial ruling, the Italian federation's appeals tribunal reduced suspensions meted out to six players, including Lazio's Portuguese defender Fernando Couto, who tested positive last season for nandrolone.

The others to benefit from the ruling were Juve's Davids, Piacenza's Nicola Caccia and Stefano Sacchetti, Parma defender Stefano Torrisi and Bari's Belgian Under-21 goalkeeper Jean-Francois Gillet.

In effect, the appeals tribunal attempted to 'standardise' their punishments, giving a four-month ban to all the above (bar Caccia, who had already served out his suspension).

This controversial ruling was a predictable response to an anomalous situation in which Couto, Gillet and Sacchetti had originally been given 10 months, while Torrisi and Davids had been sentenced to five, for precisely the same offence.

Needless to say, not everyone was impressed with the verdicts. Influential sports daily *Gazzetta Dello Sport* asked in a thunderous front-page leader: "Are we really interested in fighting doping, with credible, sensible but immutable sanctions? Or with this ruling have we made a complete cod of the whole business of the fight against drug abuse?"

On the World Cup front, no one could suggest Italy have made a complete cod of their qualifying group, although a large amount of interest was added to their final game, at home to Hungary in Parma on October 6, when the Italians failed to wrap up Group 8 with a below-par performance in a 0-0 away draw against a highly-motivated Lithuania.

Four days later, Romania added some spice to the cocktail when beating Hungary 2-0 in Budapest to narrow the gap on Italy to just two points.

Italy have to beat Hungary to be certain of winning the group, a concept not lost on coach Giovanni Trapattoni, who commented: "We may have a two-point lead on the Romanians and a better goal difference but it would be a big mistake to imagine that all we need to do is draw with Hungary. At least, however, we have a month in which to get fully fit and at our best."

At least, too, we are now in for a real game in Parma. With a view to next summer's finals, Trapattoni learned little in Lithuania but rather more in a 1-0 friendly win against Morocco four days later, in which Parma's Marco Di Vaio and Brescia's Daniele Bonera made their debuts Meanwhile Inter's Marco Materazzi and Perugia's Fabio Liverani confirmed the good impressions they made on their debuts against South Africa last April.

Other developments over the next month include news on the sale of Fiorentina and the possible comebacks of both Roberto Baggio (to the Italy team) and Ronaldo (to competitive action).

Under a Turin cloud

Keir Radnedge on Juve's Czech midfielder forced to apologise after national team blunders

PAVEL NEDVED has had to eat humble pie back home in Prague after the attractions of Italy and his transfer to Juventus warped his judgment following the Czech Republic's recent World Cup upset in Iceland.

The Czechs lost 3-1 in Reykjavik, a defeat that disrupted their progress towards the finals in South Korea and Japan. It also pushed a number of personnel issues to the surface.

Five years ago the Czechs were proud runners-up in the European Championship. Last summer they were considered bitterly unlucky to fall in the first round of Euro 2000. Skipper Nedved was hailed as one of the personalities of the tournament.

But the playmaker, perhaps, committed the sin of believing his own publicity. It has cost him plenty in terms of personal popularity. A grovelling public apology has been his penance.

The 29-year-old committed a double misjudgment in the Czechs' defeat by Iceland. Not only was he virtually anonymous on the pitch but he also earned a yellow card which meant suspension from the following Wednesday's home game against Malta.

That was when Nedved made mistake No 2. Instead of coming home with his team-mates and giving them moral support from the sidelines against Malta, he flew on to his adopted Italian home of Turin, where he now plays for Juventus.

In his absence, the Czechs scrambled a fortunate 3-2 win. Controversially, at 2-2, an offside flag denied Malta a goal which would have given them the lead. The Czechs then snatched the points which edged them back into second place in Group Three.

That left Nedved and co needing to win or draw at home to Bulgaria on October 6 to enter the play-offs as group runners-up to Denmark. Their play-off opponents will be the Group 6 runners-up. Not that Nedved is worried. He still believes the Czechs will qualify for the finals.

"It's true we have not played well in our last few games but we have had problems with form and injuries and we had to use some inexperienced players," he said.

"The Czech newspapers have been critical. Too critical. We have more faith in our ability than our journalists. Denmark will probably top the group and we will be runners-up. Then we will win the play-off whether we have to play Belgium, Croatia or Scotland. We know we can do it. From a personal point of view, I have never played in a World Cup and this may be my only chance."

Nedved was equally up front on his failure to stay on and support his team-mates in the match against Malta, saying: "I realise now that I was not thinking clearly. I have offered a public apology to my fellow players and to our supporters. Going straight back to Italy from Iceland was wrong.

"After the match against Iceland – the first time they had ever beaten us – all I wanted to do was get as far away as possible as fast as possible. We lost badly. It was our worst performance for 10 years and I was to be suspended from the next game.

"The only thing in my mind was that I could have a few days off back in Italy because, of course, nobody was playing any club football in midweek because of the World Cup ties.

"At first I believed honestly that I had taken the right decision. Then, after thinking it through later after the fuss had died down, I revised my attitude. It was wrong of me. I'm sorry. What more can I say?"

Nedved had no quarrel with fans expressing their anger but denied that his behaviour had revealed more than it should have done about players' attitudes in general to national team football.

He said: "There is no greater honour than to be selected to represent your country and pull on your national team shirt – especially in the greatest competition in football. But players do live a sort of double life. We spend most of our time with the clubs who pay our wages."

In Nedved's case, that club are now Juventus after his surprise summer move from Lazio. He said: "At the end of last season I went away on holiday having virtually agreed to extend my contract. Then, when I came back, everything had changed.

"It seemed the Cragnotti family had decided they needed to balance the books – and that was when Juventus came in for me. If Lazio didn't want me to stay then it was best for us all that I left.

"I had five terrific years in Rome. We won the championship, the Italian Cup, the old Cup-winners Cup, the European Supercup. But it wasn't easy at first to adjust to Italian football after Sparta Prague. You can't really compare the clubs or the countries' football."

Nedved has great admiration for Sven Goran Eriksson, his former coach at Lazio, although at first the pair did not get on.

He said: "Eriksson is a great coach and I say that even though at Lazio, at first, he didn't know much about me and left me out of the team. Then he gave me a chance to show what I could do and, after that, everything went well.

"Tactically, he's the best. He will do a great job for England."

Maybe the pair will meet up again in South Korea and Japan next year.

Free spirits

Jeff King on a goal-happy start to the new campaign in La Liga

On target...Patrick Kluivert scores the first of his two goals for Barcelona in their League opener at Sevilla

THE best league in the world. The most entertaining league in the world. The most unpredictable league in the world. The first day of the new Spanish season was a reminder why La Liga has attracted all the right kind of epithets in recent years.

Thirty-one goals in 10 games suggests that dour, defensive football is not about to make a comeback in Spain. And what goals! Stunning strikes by Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Ruben Navarro (Alaves), Pablo Lago (Las Palmas) and Tiko (Athletic Bilbao) were eye candy for even the most discerning fans. As for surprises, how about relegation favourites Las Palmas' 3-0 win at Champions League participants Mallorca, one of no fewer than six away victories on day one?

The Spanish sports media can always be relied on for entertaining nonsense. Real Madrid's reluctance to approach their pre-season games as if the whole country's future depended on the outcome produced several defeats and the predictable 'Real in crisis' headlines. The subsequent failure of Zinedine Zidane's high-rollers to get off to a winning League start at Valencia led to plenty of finger-pointing at the world's most expensive footballer.

Johan Cruyff was among those to rubbish the Spanish propensity for snap judgments. "Pre-season results mean absolutely nothing," he said. "On the contrary, all the hiccups are marvellous for Real Madrid. Losing a few games means the players' feet will be firmly on the ground again."

Not that Cruyff doesn't have an opinion on the debate that gripped Spain (well, all right then, its smoke-filled editorial offices) all summer. In a nutshell, is Zizou compatible with Luis Figo and Raul? "The problem is that the Frenchman thinks quicker than the rest," says the Dutchman. "His natural game is to move the ball quickly, if he can, with his first touch. But to do that he depends on the players around him. If his team-mates insist on holding the ball too long and trying to fight battles on their own, Zidane will shine less."

Many things have been said about Figo, Guti, Roberto Carlos, Pedro Munitis and Savio, but no one ever accused them of being one-touch players. Cruyff reckons Real's ball-hoggers should adapt to Zidane. "It will make them a better team," he insists. Whether coach Vicente Del Bosque can get half-a-dozen leopards to change their spots is open to question.

In reality, the opening-day match at Valencia meant far more to the hosts than Real. Losing their coach (Hector Cuper), captain (Gaizka Mendieta) and president (Pedro Cortes) in one deadly summer left huge question marks about the Champions League finalists' ability to remain elite contenders. With the relatively inexperienced coach Rafa Benitez in charge, eight new players and a new president (Jaime Orti) who is at loggerheads with the club's major shareholder (Paco Roig), a positive start was crucial for Mestalla's collectively fragile psyche.

The fact that Mendieta's contract with Lazio includes a penalty clause if the Italians sell him on to Real Madrid is indicative of Valencia's antipathy towards their capital rivals. Real sports director Jorge Valdano's pre-match suggestion that his former club were not genuine title contenders added more spice to an already hostile atmosphere.

Only Santiago Canizares and Amedeo Carboni survived from the Valencia side that lost 2-1 at the Bernabeu on the opening day of last season. But despite the absence of Kily Gonzalez, Ruben Baraja,

Jocelyn Angloma, Fabio Aurelio (all injured) and Mauricio Pellegrino (suspended), Benitez's men were exceedingly good value for their 1-0 win.

The *Ches'* rearguard was as water-tight as custom dictates. What would Del Bosque give for a reserve centre-half like Miroslav Djukic? Even with several defensive stalwarts unavailable, Spain Under-21 international Carlos Marchena, a summer signing from Benfica, didn't make it off Valencia's bench. By contrast, Real's lack of cover at the back (the accident-prone Ivan Campo and stop counting) is alarming.

In midfield, local boy David Albelda and Uruguayan recruit Gonzalo De los Santos took turns to snap at the heels of Figo, Zidane and Raul. Madrid's much-vaunted creative trident lined up in front of dual pivots Claude Makelele and Flavio Conceicao (in for the injured Ivan Helguera) and behind target man Fernando Morientes. On the rare occasions Zidane escaped the attentions of Valencia's midfield pit-bulls there was Roberto Ayala waiting to pounce. Spain's most experienced referee, Antonio Lopez Nieto, signalled a whopping 56 fouls in 48 minutes of actual playing time; 30 committed by Valencia, no fewer than seven on Zidane in the first half alone. "Is it always like this?" the Frenchman asked his team-mates afterwards.

Miguel Angulo scored the only goal but the undisputed star was midfielder-cum-winger Vicente. The local boy's swashbuckling form down the left flank in his debut season last term is the main reason Valencia have not shut the door on Kily's Italian suitors. The ease with which he tormented Michel Salgado for 68 minutes before Del Bosque's mercy substitution suggests the 20-year-old is ready to step up another gear. How Real Madrid must regret pulling out of a £400,000 deal with Levante for Vicente in 1998. A week after pouring cold water on Zidane's Real debut, the youngster was man of the match as Spain beat Austria 4-0 to seal World Cup qualification.

Benitez, who began his coaching career at Real Madrid and was Del Bosque's No 2 for the latter's 12 games as caretaker in 1993-94, is convinced Valencia are title contenders. "We are one of four candidates," says the 41-year-old, "the new players are raring to go and the older guys are as committed and ambitious as ever. We think we can beat anybody."

Six defeats in six games against Real Madrid, Deportivo and Barça meant the *Ches* ended last season with the reputation of being big-game flops. Is outplaying the reigning champions on the opening day of 2001-02 a harbinger of better things? Forty-thousand season-ticket sales – slightly up on last year, despite the summer's bad news – is evidence the fans are optimistic. Benitez's Valencia certainly have youth on their side. Vicente, (the rebaptised) Alieu Carew, Pablo Aimar, Albelda, Fabio Aurelio, Angulo, Curro Torres and Marchena boast an average age of just 22.

Well watched...Zidane against Valencia

Benitez and Del Bosque are two of La Liga's 17 (out of 20) Spanish coaches. The presence of Zidane, Figo, Rivaldo et al means home-grown players still have some way to go to enjoy that kind of pre-eminence, but the signs are that Spain's local heroes are no longer prepared to be shoved off the stage without a fight. Raul's hat-trick in Real's 3-0 Spanish Super Cup win against Zaragoza was a reminder that a world-record fee doesn't guarantee you a place at the top of the Real hierarchy – all three goals came after Zidane was substituted in the 71st minute.

Deportivo's title bid is very much a home-grown one. Seven of coach Javier Irureta's first-day starters were Spaniards. Victor, Juan Valeron and Diego Tristan all scored in the 4-0 victory against Valladolid, and former Espanyol midfielder Sergio, who made his debut as a second-half substitute, will be a key figure too.

Size and status dictate that Barça are still Catalonia's flagship, but these days neighbours Espanyol have better claims to that title. Six of their starters in the 2-1 win against Zaragoza were Barcelona-born, including scorers Enrique De Lucas, back from a loan spell at PSG, and highly-rated Alberto Lopo. By contrast, Barça's local contingent in the 2-1 win at Sevilla was limited to Xavi and veteran Sergi, whose place is now under threat from Francesco Coco, a deadline signing from Milan.

Athletic Bilbao may have German Jupp Heynckes back as coach, but there are still 11 Basques on the field. Julen Guerrero, for one, is delighted to be reunited with the man who gave him his first-team debut in 1992. Ismael Urzaiz's two goals at Real Sociedad in Athletic's 3-1 win suggest the striker is also keen to put a lacklustre season behind him.

Jorge, 20, and Carmelo, 18, are the latest products off a Canary Island conveyor belt that has produced Manuel Pablo, Valeron and Guayre in recent seasons. Both youngsters were on the scoresheet in cash-strapped Las Palmas' opening-day victory at Mallorca. Alaves' 2-0 win at promoted Tenerife was less of a surprise. Ruben Navarro may sound like a silent-movie star but Javi Moreno's replacement started the season in noisy fashion, scoring Alaves' opener with a vicious half-volley from 30 yards.

Barcelona-born Navarro is a former Valencia apprentice. Moreno was born in Valencia but is a product of Barça's youth academy. Alongside the pair's zig-zagging careers there are also parallels. Both caught the eye at Numancia after being shunned by their first clubs. Navarro's 17 goals in two seasons in Soria were not a particularly eye-catching figure, but like Moreno he shone in a team that rarely ventured out of their own trenches.

The main reason Real Madrid only succumbed 1-0 to Valencia was the brilliance of Iker Casillas. The 20-year-old keeper is happy to be a standard-bearer for his country's new wave. "In Spain we have a bad habit of treating young players from other countries like superstars while ignoring our own home-grown talent. Why is Saviola treated like a superstar when we've got Spanish players as talented as Vicente?"

Baby-faced Javier Saviola started Barcelona's opening games on the bench as more familiar faces ensured a positive start for Carles Rexach's men. Less than two months after Rivaldo's life-saving hat-trick against Valencia, the Brazilian notched another in Barça's 4-3 Champions League qualifier at Wisla Krakow; Luis Enrique sealed qualification with the only goal in the second leg. Both goals in the League opening 2-1 win at Sevilla were scored by Kluivert.

The Dutch striker ended last season being barracked by his own fans as rumours spread that he was planning to defect to Real Madrid. But he began the new term with a four-year contract extension, to 2006. "I've shut a few mouths up," he said. "Where are all the people who claimed I had signed a pre-contract with Madrid now?"

Kluivert also began the season refuting another myth. For some reason, he has a reputation as a great all-round centre-forward who is profligate in front of goal. "Patrick is not a natural scorer," says Holland boss Louis Van Gaal, who really should know better.

The 25-year-old's double at Sevilla brought his Barça total to 50 goals in 93 League games. At 0.53 goals per game, that's marginally worse than Rivaldo's rate (99 in 179 games at 0.55 per game) and better than Raul's (125 in 253 at 0.49). Kluivert has also scored 18 goals in 40 Champions League games and 30 in 52 for Holland. Profligate? The odd off-day in Ireland aside, shouldn't that read prolific?

Stars shine bright despite Fulham factor

Cooling it...Lens striker Diouf has promised to curb his volatile temper

LATELY it seems as if not a week goes by without a French player being transferred to England, usually to Fulham, where you feel that any day a notice will go up saying *'ici on parle Francais'*. Jean Tigana, who as manager has done so well with Mohamed Al Fayed's millions, is said to be speaking English now, though he's still very coy about attending press conferences.

The wonder of it is that French domestic football stays so resilient and buoyant when so many of its stars are lured overseas. Early in the season, Fulham signed no fewer than three French players – Steve Marlet and Steed Malbranque from Lyon, and 27-year-old Bordeaux midfielder Sylvain Legwinski.

Clearly Bordeaux felt they were well enough covered in his position when they added yet another Brazilian to the French League in the shape of 18-year-old Eduardo Costa, who arrived from Florianapolis.

Lens have set a fine old pace at the head of the League, while the sheer depth of the championship was shown by the dazzling attacking display of modest Troyes at Newcastle in the InterToto Cup.

Their able manager, Alain Perrin, who has been there since 1992, believed it would be essential, after the goalless first leg in Troyes, to avoid conceding an early goal at St James' Park. But when Newcastle promptly scored that, Troyes replied with four! The Magpies recovered to scrape a 4-4 draw but Troyes won the tie on away goals to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Lens, who seem to make a habit of finding effective strikers, have certainly found a new one in 20-year-old Senegalese international El Hadji Diouf. Formerly with Sochaux and Rennes, he managed just nine goals for Lens last season but there should be a good many more in the current campaign.

Diouf certainly excelled during August when he so largely contributed to four of Lens successes, and his eight

GERMANY

Dortmund start in style

Sammer's team have already shown their championship credentials, writes Nick Bidwell

THE opening four rounds of the Bundesliga were dominated by Borussia Dortmund and Kaiserslautern, each posting a 100 per cent record.

Dortmund certainly are a good bet to claim their first German title since 1996. Czech wonder boy Tomas Rosicky has been in scintillating form at the midfield controls, new Brazilian signing Marcio Amoroso, who cost £16million from Parma this summer, started life at his new club by rattling in four goals in as many games, and a defence superbly marshalled by veteran Jurgen Kohler has known nothing but clean sheets.

The impressive way in which the *Dortmunder* cruised to a 2-0 win at ambitious Hertha Berlin in week three – with Amoroso and Yugoslav midfielder Miroslav Stevic on target – was a clear signal of intent.

Lothar Matthaus has had no hesitation in tipping Borussia to go all the way. "They must be the favourites," said the former Bayern Munich and Germany star, who has just been appointed coach of Rapid Wien. "Matthias Sammer is maturing greatly in his role as Dortmund coach. He is leading the team very cleverly and has a fine future in the job. "

However, not everything has been going Dortmund's way lately. Both German international midfielder Jorg Heinrich and back-up forward Billy Reina will be out for some time after having knee ligament operations, while Borussia suffered the ignominy of losing 1-0 to Wolfsburg's amateur side in the first round of the German Cup.

Admittedly, Amoroso and Rosicky did not begin the Cup tie, only coming on for one last, futile throw of the dice with 20 minutes to go. But Dortmund still had seven internationals in their starting line-up. Sammer will have nightmares about the way his midfield was overrun and Christoph Metzelder's poor defending which led to Ingo Vandreike scoring the part-timers' dream goal.

Dortmund were not the only Bundesliga side slain. St Pauli, Nurnberg, Energie Cottbus and Hansa Rostock also succumbed to lower league opposition, falling to Darmstadt, Ulm, Uerdingen and Osnabruck respectively.

No one would have expected Kaiserslautern to start the new campaign with a club record four straight victories. After running out of gas in the final stretch last season and failing to qualify for Europe for the first time in eight years, morale was said to be low. The Red Devils suffered a further blow this summer when key French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff demanded a move and went AWOL from pre-season training.

Some saw *Lauterer* coach Andy Brehme as a condemned man before even a ball had been kicked this term. But the former international is learning fast in his first full season in charge. He earned the respect of the dressing-room by suspending Djorkaeff, bringing in the excellent Brazilian Lincoln to replace the Gallic rebel as playmaker, and wringing consistently strong performances from notoriously erratic individuals such as Czech striker Vratislav Lokvenc and midfield virtuoso Mario Basler.

"Although we have shown a lot of character and togetherness we shouldn't overestimate this run," said Brehme. "They look fine statistics-wise, but it's apparent we have to improve our game and cut down the mistakes."

Andre Duclos on a lively opening to the domestic season

goals for Senegal in the World Cup qualifiers helped book their ticket to Korea and Japan.

Now he comes under the shrewd aegis of Lens coach Joel Muller, who says: "El Hadji is a fighter, a winner."

Muller stresses that Diouf must now go on to be a role model not just on the field, but off it. The Senegalese, in fact, has been cleaning up his act of late. While with Rennes he had a serious car crash, was found to be without a valid licence, and was quickly sent out on loan to Lens.

Last season, Lens president Gervais Martel suspended Diouf for a month after he had been sent off in Strasbourg for a reckless challenge.

"It's true I was boiling up a bit," the forward admits, "but that is my mentality. I don't hide on the field. Now I've matured from that point of view and I have decided not to backchat referees this year."

He was especially pleased when after the game against Lyon, referee Alain Sars told him it was good when he didn't talk!

Troyes followed their achievement at Newcastle with a 2-0 home defeat by Lyon but there was no shame in that. Besides, the previous weekend they had gone to Marseille and won 1-0. This proved to be the last match in charge for Marseille coach Jose Anigo, who had taken over only in late July. An amazing merry-go-round ensued, with first goalkeeping coach Marc Levy and former boss Josip Skoblar taking joint command, before the club reappointed Croat Tomislav Ivic – who had quit for personal reasons three days before the season began to be succeeded by Anigo.

The ever-volatile Jose Luis Chilavert somewhat surprisingly decided to stay with relegated Strasbourg. But the Paraguay goalkeeper says: "I have a contract here, and as a professional I try to live up to the expectations people put in me as a star. I aim to help the club get back into the First Division."

Settling in...Dortmund's Amoroso scored four times in his first four games

Pro-file Djibril Cisse

Auxerre's blond bombshell taking France by storm

PEROXIDE-coiffured Auxerre striker Djibril Cisse is living proof that blonds really do have more fun.

Certainly the 20-year-old has been enjoying himself this summer. In June he was joint top scorer at the World Youth Cup in Argentina with six goals and he has taken his devastating finishing into the new French League campaign. Cisse sent Auxerre fans into raptures with a four-goal blitz in a 5-0 victory at Rennes, a superb bicycle-kick equaliser against Paris Saint-Germain, and winners against Lorient and Sedan.

With seven goals from the first four games of 2001-02, Cisse can do no wrong, and though it was only 14 months ago that he starred in France's win at the European Under-18 Championship, some are touting him to be included in France's World Cup 2002 squad.

Cisse, who joined Auxerre in 1996 from his hometown club Nimes, is attacking talent in its purest form. A front-runner of rare pace, power, agility and panache on the ball, such is his mobility and fearsome shooting that he can threaten defences from almost any position or angle.

Yet Cisse insists he is anything but the finished article. "I think I must improve in front of goal," he says, somewhat surprisingly. "I can still remember the many easy chances I wasted last season. I also must work on my defensive game. I can be lax at closing down opponents. In attacking play, I have the speed to get quickly into the box, but I don't use it so much to harass defenders on the ball.

"I don't want to get ahead of myself. At the start of last season I wasn't expecting to be a first-team regular, to play 25 games and score eight goals. Everything has happened very quickly for me and I'm proud and happy. But people must not exaggerate. I don't know if I'm a revelation. I have a lot to learn."

Inevitably, Cisse's exceptional ability has not gone unnoticed by Europe's top clubs. Manchester United and a host of Serie A sides are reported to be admirers, but the youngster clearly believes the time is not yet right to bid *au revoir* to Auxerre.

"While I do think about playing abroad, I first want to establish myself as a good player in the French championship. That is the best way to prepare myself for a move to another country.

"It's pleasing to be watched by big clubs, but I haven't yet played a full season at Auxerre.

Now I have to see what I can do over a whole season. Then I will be able to say if I'm ready or not." The answer should be in the affirmative.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Auxerre
Country France
Born August 12, 1981, in Nimes
Previous club Nimes
Honours European Under-18 Championship 2000

Stam sale shock

Gavin Hamilton on the first big surprise of the new season

THE CURTAIN had barely been raised on the new season when Manchester United sold Jaap Stam to Lazio in one of the most surprising transfers of recent times.

The Dutch international central defender, a key figure in United's successes in recent seasons, was dispatched to Italy after the two clubs agreed a £16million fee.

United manager Alex Ferguson denied that the shock sale of Stam had anything to do with the player's recent autobiography, in which he claimed Ferguson made an illegal approach to buy him from PSV ("our meeting may have been technically against the rules, but it happens all the time and is an accepted part of the game").

Yesterday's man...Stam has been offloaded to Lazio

Ferguson insisted Stam's poor performances in pre-season and the Charity Shield convinced him of the need to sell the player. Such a view was confirmed by a mistake by Stam in United's opening Premier League match against Fulham, which allowed the newly-promoted side to take the lead. The champions eventually won 3-2, largely thanks to a double from Ruud Van Nistelrooy on his League debut, but only after they had twice fallen behind.

But the fact that Ferguson had not signed a replacement when the Dutchman was sold led many to suggest that the book, which Ferguson says he did not know Stam was planning, must have played some part in his decision.

In Ferguson's defence, he says that Stam was sold once it became apparent that Laurent Blanc, a long-term United target, was available. Blanc, the ex-French international, was subsequently signed on a free transfer from Internazionale.

Speaking a week after the Stam transfer, Ferguson said: "When I heard Blanc wanted away from Inter Milan, roughly two weeks ago, that was it. No one else came in the frame. He is the defender I think can organise things for this team.

"I believe he can help and enhance the progress of Wes Brown. He also gives us that presence, that bit of big-game experience which at times we have shown to be lacking."

Ferguson admitted that to sign Blanc, someone would have to be sold. "We have a massive wage bill and we have spent a lot of money this summer. Obviously there was no more available, so to bring Laurent Blanc to this club, I had to make some movement."

The arrival of the 35-year-old Frenchman, who Ferguson tried to sign twice before, is intended only as a stop-gap measure. The long-term target is believed to be another Dutch international from PSV, Kevin Hofland, who is likely to leave the club next summer.

Peter Taylor, whose star shone so brightly last autumn, when he took temporary charge of England before Sven Goran Eriksson's arrival, was the coach most likely to be sacked following the early skirmishes in the Premier League.

Taylor's Leicester side were thumped 5-0 at home by newly-promoted Bolton on the opening day, and then lost 4-0 at Arsenal.

Bolton were the surprise leaders after three matches. Following their opening-day success at Leicester, they went top after a 2-1 win over Liverpool. The winner was scored by Dean Holdsworth, whose speculative shot in the 88th minute was fumbled into the net by keeper Sander Westerveld.

Liverpool reacted to the defeat, and the rising tide of criticism of Westerveld, by going out and buying not one but two new goalkeepers. Concerns that Polish international Jerzy Dudek would not complete his medical in time for his move from Feyenoord to be registered by the Champions League deadline prompted Liverpool to also sign Coventry's Chris Kirkland.

In the end both transfers went through before the deadline, leaving Liverpool with a surfeit of keepers and Westerveld facing an uncertain future.

SCOTLAND

Celtic back on the glory road

CELTIC manager Martin O'Neill may be some way off creating a team to match that of Jock Stein in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but his side's performance against Ajax in the Champions League qualifiers certainly created echoes of those glory days. Goals from Bobby Petta, Didier Agathe and Chris Sutton ripped the heart out of Ajax in the Amsterdam Arena, and although the Dutch side restored some pride with a 1-0 win in Glasgow, the tie had effectively been won in Holland.

Celtic's victory put them into the group stage of the tournament for the first time, where they face a tough trio in Juventus, FC Porto and Rosenborg. However, confidence should be high at Parkhead given the way they destroyed Ajax in the first leg.

Across Glasgow at Ibrox, little seems to be going right for Rangers, and the lack of depth in the squad was painfully apparent as they were defeated in the Champions League qualifiers by Fenerbahce.

The simmering frustrations at the club were all too apparent as chairman David Murray launched a stinging attack on sections of the media for what he perceived to be negative reporting of his club's activities.

On the field, big-money signings such as Tore Andre Flo and Ronald De Boer are consistently failing to deliver, while rumours continue to persist that the Dutch 'colony' at Ibrox is leading to dressing-room unrest.

Elsewhere, Hearts chairman Chris Robinson has come under fire following the sale of club captain Colin Cameron to Wolves for less than £2million. A regular in the Scotland squad, Cameron was regarded as the Tynecastle club's most valuable asset. The supporters were even more disenchanted when Robinson stated that the income from the forward's sale would be used to reduce club debts rather than to strengthen the squad.

Alan Fairley

Going Dutch...Bobby Petta puts Celtic ahead against Ajax in Amsterdam

WALES

Better showings but defeats keep coming

MUCH-IMPROVED performances, but the same result. That sums up the Welsh representatives' European campaign this season.

Barry Town's excellent 3-1 home win against FC Porto in the Champions League second qualifying round not only salvaged pride following their 8-0 drubbing in Oporto but also did the nation's club coefficient ranking a world of good.

In the UEFA Cup, Cwmbran Town went out at the first hurdle to Slovan Bratislava, with the damage done in the home first leg. The Slovakians won 4-0 in Wales having played for almost 80 minutes against just 10 men after the dismissal of Dean Philpott. Cwmbran put up a valiant performance in the return and deserved a draw on the night, but a controversial late goal gave Slovan a 1-0 win.

Total Network Solutions also battled well in their away tie, against Polonia Warsaw, but having held the Poles for 70 minutes they then conceded four goals making the return a formality. Polonia duly won 2-0 in Cardiff.

At home, there were some early signs of promise for clubs who struggled last term. Bangor City, who finished 14th in 2000-01, won their first two games, kicking off with a surprise 3-0 victory at Rhyl, whose squad strengthening over the summer included the signing of former Wales keeper Neville Southall.

Llanelli, saved from relegation by the lack of a suitable promotion candidate, also began with two wins.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Local teams draw Euro blank

IN what has become a familiar tale, neither of Northern Ireland's UEFA Cup representatives made it past the qualifying round. Glenavon lost 1-0 in both legs of their tie against Scottish Premier League Kilmarnock, while Glentoran went out 5-1 on aggregate to Midtjylland of Denmark.

Glentoran had raised hopes of breaking their 20-year-old European competition 'duck' when securing a 1-1 draw in the first leg. However, in the return, at home, the Danes proved too fit and too skilful for the part-timers. Glentoran were not helped by the dismissal of goalkeeper Alan Gough for handling outside his area.

On the domestic front, there will be no relegation from the Premier Division this season, with the League expanded from 10 teams to 12.

As expected, national coach Sammy McIlroy has been given a two-year extension to his contract, taking him up to the end of the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

Former Northern Ireland keeper Tommy Wright has made a surprising return to the province, signing for newly-relegated Ballymena United.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Milan Baros

Young Czech about to add to Liverpool's striking riches

THERE is no question of Liverpool lacking strength in depth in the striking department – Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler and Emile Heskey are already on their books, while rising Czech star Milan Baros is expected to arrive at Anfield from Banik Ostrava towards the end of this year.

Baros has not been short of suitors since exploding on the international stage last spring with a goal in each of his first two games for the Czech Republic. PSV Eindhoven, Milan, Internazionale and Juventus were among those reportedly enamoured by his sharpness in the box, pacy bursts down either flank and excellent touch, while at one point Borussia Dortmund looked on the verge of signing the 19-year-old.

But after the Germans opted to recruit another Czech striker, Anderlecht's Jan Koller, and an offer from Serie A new boys Piacenza was deemed not sufficiently tempting, the field was clear for Liverpool. The UEFA Cup holders duly clinched a £3.2million deal.

"I'm glad a club as famous as Liverpool wanted me," says Baros, whose ball skills have prompted some Czech sports writers to call him the 'Ostravan Maradona'. "I will continue playing for Banik until the end of the autumn, when my work permit should have been sorted out. I'll be doing my best not to be distracted by thoughts of my transfer. My job is to concentrate on Czech League football and, if selected, do as well as I can in international matches."

Not that there is any chance of Czech Republic coach Jozef Chovanec ignoring Baros at the moment. The youngster popped up with a late equaliser on his debut against Belgium last April; two months later he came up trumps again, scoring in the 3-1 World Cup qualifying win at home to Northern Ireland. "Milan helped turn the game in our favour," said Chovanec. "His skill, speed and directness stretched them and he got his reward with a goal." The youngster topped that by scoring the winner at home to Malta in the recent World Cup tie to revive the Czechs' faltering campaign.

Baros has always found representative football to his liking, and enjoyed particular success with the Under-21s. He scored nine goals in 14 appearances, helping them finish second to Italy in the European Championship in Slovakia last year.

The irony is that the Czech League has not proved a happy hunting ground for Baros of late. He managed just four goals for Banik last season and the club only narrowly avoided relegation.

At trophy-hungry Liverpool, the young forward will be in quite another world.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Banik Ostrava (Liverpool from November/December)
Country Czech Republic
Born October 28, 1981, in Ostrava
International debut April 2001, v Belgium
International caps 5 (3 goals)

Adriaanse off the hook...for now

Klaas-Jan Droppert on how the Ajax coach survived a crisis

HOLLAND

CO ADRIAANSE is still coach of Ajax despite coming under severe pressure following the club's elimination from the Champions League qualifiers by Celtic.

Ajax went into the first leg, at home, with Adriaanse continuing to employ a 4-2-4 formation, despite criticism from the club's technical director, Leo Beenhakker, that the use of such a system was naive in European competition.

So it proved to be, as Ajax were outclassed by the Scottish champions, who secured an easy 3-1 win.

Yet Adriaanse, who used 4-2-4 in the Champions League when boss of Willem II, again without results, stuck to his guns, using the system on the opening day of the Dutch season and securing only a 0-0 draw against Roda JC.

With the second leg against Celtic and an away match against arch-rivals Feyenoord ahead, it seemed as if Adriaanse's days were numbered. But the coach finally agreed to change to a 5-3-2 formation, and his introduction of markers Ferdi Vierklau and Andre Bergdolmo, both out of his plans for over a year, paid off. Two important victories (1-0 in Glasgow and 2-1 in Rotterdam) mean that Adriaanse can breathe again for a while.

Yet the coach has had to deal with another major problem, over Shota Arveladze. The 28-year-old Georgian international forward, whose contract was due to end next summer after five seasons in Amsterdam, refused to sign a new one. The Ajax board, knowing they would not receive a fee for the player next year, retaliated by ordering Adriaanse not to play last season's top scorer until he had signed.

At this point Dutch European Commissioners intervened, saying the board's instruction was tantamount to blackmail and that they would investigate the case further. Arveladze was soon back in the team, but before long a £3million move had been agreed with Rangers and he was off to Scotland.

Champions PSV won the Dutch Super Cup, beating Cup holders Twente 3-2, but made a shaky start in the defence of their League title. They followed up their opening day 2-2 draw at Groningen with a 3-2 win over Den Bosch in Eindhoven, but then lost 3-1 to Willem II in Tilburg.

Feyenoord won both their opening games before the defeat by Ajax, and then had to contend with the loss of influential keeper Jerzy Dudek to Liverpool.

Schalke midfielder Niels Oude Kamphuis and PSV keeper Ronald Waterreus were given their international debuts in Holland's 2-0 friendly win over England in August.

Back in favour...Ajax defender Ferdi Vierklau

Back in the fold...Kubilay Turkyilmaz

SWITZERLAND

Sion face 10-point penalty

SION, the League leaders after nine rounds, were facing the possibility of having 10 points deducted because of two unrelated rule infringements.

The first stemmed from a protest lodged by Basle, who claimed the club had not provided the required £500,000 bank guarantee to cover their debts before the start of the League campaign.

This protest, which came just after Basle's 8-1 opening-day thrashing by Sion, was upheld by the National League committee, which proceeded to dock the leaders seven points. Sion president Gilbert Kadji, a Cameroonian brewing tycoon, immediately lodged an appeal, which is pending.

The club, standard-bearers of football in the mountainous Valais region, have been plagued by debts in recent years, and it was only Kadji's arrival that saved them from bankruptcy.

Sion's second transgression came during their 1-0 League win over former champions St Gallen. French coach Laurent Roussey sent on a sixth foreign player, one more than the Swiss League limit, as a 75th-minute substitute, and although he rectified the situation four minutes later, the damage had been done.

Sion now face having the game awarded 3-0 against them, with the consequent loss of a further three points.

Roussey quit immediately after the game, but Kadji refused to accept his resignation and with the players also backing the Frenchman, a return seemed more than likely.

National coach Kobi Kuhn succeeded in coaxing star striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz to return to the national colours for the recent World Cup qualifiers, and he duly added two more goals to his all-time record Swiss tally (now 34) in the game against Luxembourg. The 34-year-old Lucerne player, who has Turkish roots, withdrew from the Swiss squad last season citing racial harassment at League games.

Swiss and Austrian delegates, meeting in Vienna recently, agreed to mount a joint bid to host the 2008 European Championship. Switzerland won the friendly to mark the occasion 2-1 in Kuhn's debut as coach.

Ivar von Rulach

REP IRELAND

Bohemians still bubbling

CHAMPIONS Bohemians got off to a perfect start in the defence of their title, winning their first three games to go top of the table.

The Gypsies' opening was all the more impressive given that they have lost key central defender Shaun Maher to Luton of the English Third Division.

St Patrick's Athletic, now known as the Dublin Saints following their amalgamation with First Division St Francis, also started well. They lay second after three games and appear to have found a real star in Uganda international Mbabazi Livingstone.

The Eircom League clubs disappointed in this season's European competitions, having put in some reasonable performances in recent years. Bohemians did manage to get past Levadia Maardu of Estonia in the first qualifying round of the Champions League, but went out 4-1 on aggregate to Sweden's Halmstads at the next stage.

Shelbourne supporters entertained

hopes of UEFA Cup progress when their side restricted Brondby to a 2-0 lead in the first leg of their UEFA Cup clash in Denmark, but Shels showed little appetite for the fight in the return at Tolka Park, and the Danes coasted to a 5-0 aggregate victory.

European debutants Longford Town put in a decent effort in the same competition, almost winning their first leg at home to Litex Lovech. However, the Bulgarians equalised with four minutes to go and won the return 2-0.

On the home front, UCD manager Martin Moran has been forced to step down because of pressure of work in his solicitors' business. His replacement is Paul Doolin, who joined the club as player-coach at the start of the season.

Sean Creedon

LUXEMBOURG

Cardoni fires Jeunesse

JEUNESSE D'ESCH led the way after four games of the new domestic season, thanks largely to the excellent form of Manuel Cardoni.

In Europe, all three Luxembourg representatives went out at the first hurdle, although F91 Dudelange did manage to beat Latvia's Skonto Riga 1-0 in the away leg of their Champions League tie – the first time for 24 years that a Luxembourg side had won away from home in Europe.

Tim Brice

BELGIUM

Aalst in the dock

EENDRACHT AALST kicked off the new season with three wins out of three, but faced having points docked because of two charges arising from their opening match, against Mouscron.

Not only did Aalst field a player who was to all intents and purposes suspended, but they also employed another whose status is questionable.

Substitute Karel Verhulst came on for the last five minutes even though he was apparently banned having been sent off late last season while playing for the reserves.

Meanwhile, there was confusion over the eligibility of midfielder Gideon Imagbudu. The Nigerian was an amateur last season, but to compete in the Belgian top division he would have been required to join Aalst's professional ranks. It was not clear whether he had been registered as such.

By chance, a former Aalst player, Sammy Van den Bossche, was the unwitting victim of more controversy while playing for his new club, Westerlo, in their 4-1 defeat at Gent.

The midfielder had to be helped off the pitch after being struck by a stone thrown from the crowd. This left Westerlo with only 10 men for the last half hour as they had already used all their substitutes. Not surprisingly, they want the game replayed at the very least.

Mouscron, meanwhile, followed up their defeat at Aalst by losing 3-2 at newly-promoted Lommel in a game tarnished by an incredible display of petulance from Marco Casto.

The Mouscron left-back was sent off after vehemently disputing a

Eligibility question...Imagbudu

penalty awarded against his team, but continued to harangue the officials as he left the field.

Mouscron were so embarrassed by Casto's behaviour that they suspended him for a month.

The national team's 4-1 defeat away to Finland in mid-August was coach Robert Waseige's worst loss since taking charge.

Nicholas Harling

Pro-file Pedro Mantorras

Charitable young Angolan bringing Benfica new hope

BENFICA'S highly-rated Angolan striker Pedro Mantorras obviously is not one to forget his roots.

The 19-year-old, who turned down a move to Internazionale earlier this year, was clearly delighted when Benfica signed him from Alverca for £3.5million in the close season. "Benfica is my destiny. It's a great step forward," he said.

But it was not long before his thoughts turned to those less fortunate in his homeland, promising to donate a hefty percentage of his wages to set up a home for street kids in Luanda.

"I feel so sorry for children in Angola," says Mantorras. "I know what it's like to go hungry and to sleep on the street. My father died when I was three months old and my mother when I was 16. I had a brother to look after and became the head of the family very young. I had a lot of difficulties early in my life. Now that my fortunes have improved, I'm going to do what I can to help the underprivileged."

The forward's charitable nature does not extend to the field of play – his sumptuous skill, mobility, strength and dead-eye finishing make him a nightmare to neutralise.

Mantorras has already been described as the best player to come out of Portuguese Africa since Eusebio left Mozambique for Benfica in the early 1960s. Success-starved Benfica fans would not find such comparisons too fanciful. They fell in love with Mantorras as soon as they saw him turn on the style in pre-season. Eusebio himself says of the youngster: "He has special qualities and is set for a great future."

Mantorras, who, according to the rumour mill, will eventually end up at Barcelona, says: "I realise there is a euphoric atmosphere around me at the moment, but I also know there will be times ahead of me at Benfica when I'm less fortunate, when I fall down. I learnt at Alverca that the key to success is to stay humble and work hard, and I will stick to these ideas at Benfica."

Until early next year, Mantorras will be able to concentrate exclusively on his new club. In a gesture of goodwill the Angolan federation has agreed not to call him up for internationals before February 2002, when the qualifiers for the 2004 African Nations Cup begin. After playing a prominent role in his country's African Under-20 Championship triumph in Ethiopia in March – he was the tournament's top marksman with five goals – his next job will be to make the senior side more competitive. It's a brief well within his compass.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Benfica (Por)
Country Angola
Born March 18, 1982, in Luanda
Previous club Alverca (Por)
Honours African Under-20 Championship 2001

Brondby cruise it as Karlsson quits

FC Copenhagen lose their coach and see their rivals take the lead, writes Jim Holden

DENMARK

BRONDBY turned on the goal power as they took advantage of FC Copenhagen's Champions League distractions and stormed ahead at the top of the Danish Superliga.

While the domestic champions were embroiled in a controversial and ultimately unsuccessful contest with Lazio, which was followed by the resignation of Swedish coach Kent Karlsson for personal reasons, Brondby were beating Silkeborg 4-0 and newly-promoted Esbjerg 7-0 in the League to retain pole position.

Striker Ruben Bagger even claimed it was becoming "almost too easy" after he had scored twice in the latter game. Peter Madsen notched a hat-trick against Esbjerg, while both strikers had been on target a few days earlier as Brondby cruised through to the first round proper of the UEFA Cup. Their goals helped the team to a 5-0 aggregate victory over Irish side Shelbourne.

The only stain on Brondby's early season was a 1-0 defeat away to Lyngby, a club in financial crisis. Lyngby's problems raised the possibility that they might be taken over by ambitious First Division Farum, a neighbouring club in the suburbs of Copenhagen. The news sparked intense protests from fans but given that mergers are not uncommon in Denmark, this one may yet occur.

FC Copenhagen, the product of a merger eight years ago, were left furious after losing out to Lazio 5-3 on aggregate.

The Danes won the home first leg 2-1 thanks to a penalty from Jacob Laursen and a goal from striker Heine Fernandez, who predicted mayhem in the return after a series of ugly skirmishes on the pitch.

The showdown in Rome was won 4-1 by Lazio, although a late goal from Sibusiso Zuma ensured a tense finale.

FC Copenhagen were the poorer side, but were adamant that they had been harshly treated by German referee Helmut Krug. Captain Niclas Jensen complained that two of Lazio's goals were offside, saying: "I have seldom seen such a weak performance by a referee and his linesmen. It was unbelievable how many offsides were not awarded. At least two of the Lazio goals were obviously offside, but, as in many similar situations, the linesman did not react."

Hat-trick hero...Brondby's Peter Madsen

With Europe dominating their thoughts, FC Copenhagen lost 2-1 at Esbjerg and 1-0 at home to AB in the Superliga, leaving them five points behind Brondby after just six games.

Then came the resignation of Karlsson, who had taken over from Englishman Roy Hodgson only two months before. The Swede took the post on the understanding that, because of an illness in his family, he would stand down as soon as a permanent successor could be found. However, he was unable to wait even that long.

FC Midtjylland joined Brondby in the first round of the UEFA Cup after recording a comfortable 5-1 aggregate win over Glentoran of Northern Ireland.

NORWAY

Rosenborg hit form right on time

ROSENBORG, the dominant club in Norwegian football, again proved that in difficult times they have the quality to lift their game. Despite stuttering domestic form, the Trondheim club convincingly won through to the group stage of the Champions League by trouncing Inter Bratislava 4-0 at home after a 3-3 draw in Slovakia.

The victory made them the only club to have played in the Champions League for seven successive seasons.

Key players such as Bent Skammelsrud, Roar Strand, Frode Johnsen and Sigurd Rushfeldt, who all scored against Inter, have found their form at just the right time, a fact that has also given Rosenborg a boost in the domestic League. Having laboured during the middle part of the season, the club regained the lead in the championship on the back of a five-game winning run during which they scored 21 goals.

The squad has also been strengthened by the arrival of midfielders Hassan El Fakiri, on loan from Monaco, and Odd Inge Olsen, from Molde. El Fakiri was a huge success with Brann last season, while a measure of Olsen's qualities can be gauged by the reaction of the Molde supporters when he left the club. At the home match immediately after his

Moving on?...Halmstads' Svensson

FINLAND

Tainio back to his best

FINLAND's 4-1 friendly win over Belgium in August marked the return of Auxerre's Teemu Tainio to the full national side. The midfielder's previous home match for Finland was two years ago, against Germany, when he was rated as man of the match. But he has been bedevilled by injuries since.

At Auxerre, Tainio, 22, has adopted a new role as a defensive midfielder, and his performance in that position against Belgium delighted Finland coach Antti Muurinen, who said: "Teemu is a bright player, who offers us new options, ideas and dynamism. Although he is not very big, his defending has improved a lot."

The good showing at international level was not matched in European club competition, with FC Haka losing lamely, 5-0, at home to Liverpool in front of a sell-out crowd. Haka, admittedly below strength, looked weary and heavy-booted and, while no one expected them to beat Owen and co, their lack of fight left a sour taste.

"We did what we could, but my boys were worn down by the overloaded match schedule," said Haka's English coach, Keith Armstrong.

Haka, meanwhile, now look to be out of the championship race, leaving the track open for MyPa, HJK Helsinki and Tampere United.

Pentti Hietanen

departure, the fans left the ground en masse as the referee signalled the start of the game, so angry were they with the board for letting him go.

Viking coach Benny Lennartson says this season is his last with the club, while Terje Skarsfjord has already departed Tromso after they won only four of their first 20 League matches. His replacement is former Sweden manager Tommy Svensson.

Brann failed at the first hurdle as they attempted to reach the Champions League group stage, going out on away goals to Levski Sofia in the second qualifying round.

National coach Nils Johan Semb used the August friendly against Turkey to begin the process of rebuilding his side. Debutant Alex Valencia showed enough down the right during the 1-1 draw to suggest he can come into contention for a regular place, while Jan Derek Sorensen, who recently agreed to make himself available for selection once more, also had a good game.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Hammarby ditch Cratz

IF a club, widely tipped for relegation in pre-season forecasts, lead the League after nearly two-thirds of the games have been played, one would expect a few plaudits for the coach.

Not as far as Hammarby are concerned, since they announced they will not renew the contract of Soren Cratz when it runs out at the end of the season.

Hammarby fans reacted angrily, staging a protest at the club's offices. Many feel that 'King Cratz', as he is known to the Soderstadion faithful, has been let down by the board after moulding a wildly inconsistent team into a winning outfit.

"This was a massive disappointment and my professional pride was hurt," Cratz commented. "But I still intend to make this a season to remember for the fans. After all, Hammarby have never been League champions."

Anders Linderoth, who quit Norway's Stabaek earlier this year, will lead the club next season.

Another confirmed coaching move

Taking aim...Rosenborg's Rushfeldt

concerns Tom Prahl, who will leave Halmstads at the end of the season to take over at Malmo on a three-year contract. Prahl's departure could lead to a mass exodus at Halmstads, with Michael Svensson a notable likely mover. France's Troyes have already had one bid blocked for the stopper, but the deal could be back on after Halmstads failed to reach the Champions League.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Euro showings defy domestic form

THE UEFA Cup performances of Fylkir and IA Akranes were in stark contrast to their recent form in the domestic championship.

Long-time League leaders Fylkir have slumped in recent weeks, falling to fourth in the table after three straight defeats. In the UEFA Cup, however, they celebrated their European debut with a 3-2 aggregate win over Pogon Szczecin of Poland.

IA Akranes topped the domestic championship by three points after 15 rounds, with hard work and fighting spirit more than cancelling out the team's relative inexperience. Yet they suffered a 10-1 aggregate mauling by Belgium's Club Brugge in the UEFA Cup.

The race to avoid relegation appears likely to go to the wire. Four teams, including defending champions KR, are battling to avoid joining almost certainly doomed Breidablik in the First Division next season.

Rab Christie

NEXT MONTH

WORLD CUP SHOWDOWN

We preview the qualifying play-offs for Korea/Japan

PLUS

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

Face to face with the G-14 power-broker

STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

WORLD SOCCER

NOVEMBER ISSUE ON SALE OCTOBER 19

Stimac comes centre-stage

Zdravko Reic on a newsworthy month for the central defender

CROATIA

IGOR STIMAC, recently returned to Croatia and his former club Hajduk Split from England, has dominated the news in recent weeks.

Firstly, the 34-year-old took the initiative to help rescue Hajduk from bankruptcy, joining with three of the club's other greats – Alen Boksic, Aljosa Asanovic and Slaven Bilic – to inject some much-needed cash. The four put up £300,000 each to ease the financial crisis.

Stimac then proceeded to get himself a six-game European ban for his part in a scuffle in the tunnel that followed Hajduk's Champions League qualifier against Mallorca. But the central defender showed a more positive side to his game when agreeing to play for Croatia in the World Cup qualifier against Scotland, having apparently called time on his international career.

Stimac has also been engaged in politics, campaigning against the extradition of two Croat generals to face trial at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague. "I am a patriot and against the treatment of our war as a criminal one," said Stimac. "Our generals gave us independence and freedom and saved us from Serbian occupation."

Case for the defence...Stimac is a strong advocate of Croatia's cause

YUGOSLAVIA

Red Star defeat sparks row

RED STAR BELGRADE striker Mihajlo Pjanovic and coach Slavoljub Muslin clashed in a war of words after the 3-0 aggregate Champions League qualifying defeat by Bayer Leverkusen.

Outburst...Mihajlo Pjanovic

Pjanovic, who had been dropped by Muslin for the second leg in Germany, claimed the coach was responsible for the poor atmosphere in the team and accused him of favouring certain players in return for a cut of their salary.

Muslin denied the accusations and said he was considering legal action against the player. In the meantime, Pjanovic was fined and suspended for 10 days.

Red Star's defeat, which meant that the Champions League group stage is still unknown territory for Yugoslav clubs, was not their only problem. They made a stuttering start in defence of their League title, managing only a 1-1 draw at home to promoted Mladost Apatin.

Other fancied clubs, Partizan and Obilic, also hit unexpected problems. Partizan, who appear to have the strongest squad, drew 2-2 at Radnicki Kragujevac, while Obilic, who announced their intention this year to break the domination of Red Star and Partizan, surely expected a better start than two goalless draws.

Vladimir Novak

TURKEY

Coaches eye last 16

FENERBAHCE coach Mustafa Denizli sounded a note of caution following the draw for the first group phase of the Champions League, but predicted his club would reach the last 16.

"It is not an easy group and we need nine points in order to qualify for the next stage," said Denizli, whose side were drawn with Lyon, Bayer Leverkusen and Barcelona in Group F following their narrow 2-1 aggregate win over Rangers in the third qualifying round. "Nevertheless, we will qualify with Barcelona."

Mircea Lucescu, his counterpart at Galatasaray, also regards qualification as a real possibility. After being grouped with Lazio, Nantes and PSV Eindhoven, the Romanian said: "Lazio and Gala are the favourites for the top two places. Dutch football is not as forceful as it used to be. We will fight with Nantes for second place."

The wrangle over the future of Mario Jardel has finally been resolved. The Brazilian striker has left Gala to join Sporting Lisbon, with three players – Czech midfielder Pavel Horvath, Belgian midfielder Mbo Mpenza and Croatian striker Robert Spehar – coming the other way.

Hasan Cemali

GREECE

Kuusela fired before the off

PANIONIOS dumped Finnish coach Marti Kuusela before the League season had even begun and just three months after giving him a new one-year contract. President Achilleas Beos was said to be furious with the team's performances in two Greek Cup matches – a 1-0 defeat by Second Division Kallithea and a goalless draw with Third Division Leonidion.

The Greek federation has announced that the top division will be increased by two teams to 16 in the 2002-03 season.

Lou Economopoulos

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Serbs to join unified League

THE country will finally have a truly unified championship after the Serbian federation agreed to join forces with the combined Muslim and Croat League. The new national Premier League will begin in August 2002, with at least two but possibly four Serb clubs taking part.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Savic makes quick exit

FORMER Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dusan Savic became the first coaching casualty of the new season, leaving Mura Murska Sobota after just two games in charge. Croatian coach Luka Bonacic was named his successor.

Nova Gorica face major financial difficulties after sponsors HIT withdrew their backing.

Zdravko Reic

MACEDONIA

League play-offs introduced

CHAMPIONSHIP and relegation play-offs are to be introduced to the 12-team top division this season, with the League splitting into two halves after 22 games.

The top six clubs will play each other home and away to determine the champions, with the bottom six fighting it out to avoid the two relegation berths.

The relegation wrangle concerning Shkendia HB has finally been resolved, with the Tetovo side being forced to play in the second level. Shkendia had appealed against the drop, claiming that the military conflict in the vicinity of their home city had seriously disrupted the end of their campaign.

The European campaign is already over for Macedonia's clubs, Sloga Jugomagnat going out of the Champions League qualifiers 5-1 on aggregate to Steaua Bucharest, and Vardar and Pelister both exiting the UEFA Cup in the qualifying round.

A Macedonian national side largely comprising home-based players failed to win any of three recent friendlies, losing to Qatar and Bulgaria (both 1-0) and drawing 1-1 with Saudi Arabia.

Michel Stojmanovski

ISRAEL

Storm clouds gather

IN THE final countdown to the new season there were some ominous signs about the state of the Premier League.

Champions Maccabi Haifa provided the first shock when they were unceremoniously booted out of the Champions League qualifying stages. Although they beat FC Haka of Finland 5-0 on aggregate, Maccabi were disqualified for fielding midfielder Walid Badir while he was still serving a three-match suspension.

The dust had barely settled on that affair when the focus moved to Beitar Jerusalem and their financial woes. A year after buying the club, industrialist Gad Ze'evi then tried to sell it following a frustrating campaign. However, he could not find a buyer, and with debts of around £3.5million, there was a possibility that Beitar would be prevented from starting the new season. Ze'evi bought some time by winning a court order that placed the club under the management of a trustee, giving Beitar an extra three months to find a buyer.

Derek Fattal

MALTA

Birkirkara break through

A FIRST-HALF goal from Antoine Zahra away to Lokomotiv Tbilisi secured Birkirkara their first qualification in European competition. Lokomotiv later equalised but the 1-1 draw was enough to send the former Maltese champions into the UEFA Cup first round following a 0-0 draw at home.

National hero Carmel Busuttil bowed out of competitive football by scoring for Sliema Wanderers in their UEFA Cup qualifying round second leg tie against Matador Puchov. But although his side went on to win 2-1, the Slovakians went through 4-2 on aggregate.

Domenico Aquilina

Controversy...Maccabi's Walid Badir

ALBANIA

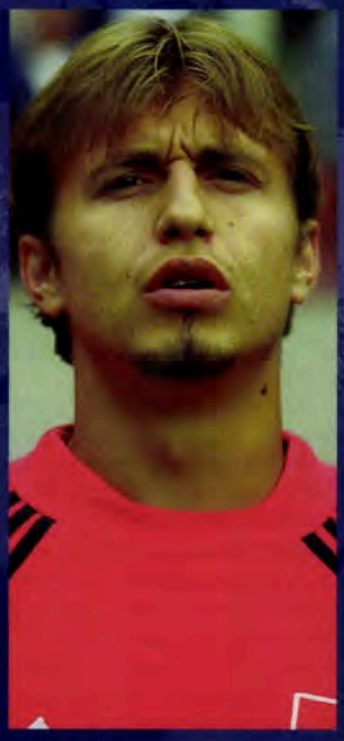
Bust-up spells end for Arabov

NIKOLAI ARABOV has been sacked as coach of promoted Partizani Tirana after only one month in charge. The Bulgarian fell out with controversial club president Albert Xhani, who insisted on having a say in team selection and tactics. Arabov's replacement is Shpetim Duro.

Gezim Nushi

Pro-file Ayhan Akman

Turkish trouble-maker seeking redemption at Galatasaray



FEW could deny that Galatasaray have taken a risk in buying Turkish international midfielder Ayhan Akman from Besiktas.

Ayhan's ability has never been in doubt; ever since emerging at Gaziantepspor in the mid-1990s, he has dazzled with his mesmerising dribbling, speed and ability to improvise.

Unfortunately, he has also shown a lack of consistency and an infuriating capacity to drift out of games.

During his three years at Besiktas – between 1998 and this summer – the little midfielder was his typically unpredictable self. And while his cause was hardly helped by a string of injuries – he missed three months of last season alone after damaging an ankle in a freak training ground accident – it was no particular surprise when new German coach Christoph Daum labelled him surplus to requirements.

Ayhan not only failed to impress Daum but also a section of Besiktas fans, who were becoming increasingly disgruntled with his hit-or-miss tendencies.

This spiralled into a vicious hate campaign, which reached a head last spring. The anti-Ayhan forces were in ferment when they saw television images of him laughing on the bench during Besiktas' 3-1 defeat by his old club Gaziantepspor. Shortly afterwards the midfielder was assaulted by a group of irate fans at Istanbul airport and had to be rescued by security staff.

"Even if I don't play, I am the one who is blamed and attacked," sighed Ayhan. "After every defeat the supporters choose to vent their anger on me. I cannot comprehend why they do these things."

A sorry state of affairs, but it is no use Ayhan playing the innocent. The player has a well-formed reputation as one of Turkish football's bad boys – there have been a number of nocturnal scrapes plus a six-month ban for failing a dope test in 1997.

Now, with his move to Gala, he has a chance for redemption, and certainly seems motivated to make the most of his opportunity. So keen was he to join the club that he cut short his honeymoon in order to enter into transfer negotiations.

"With Hagi retiring and Okan and Emre going to Internazionale, Galatasaray have had to rebuild their midfield, and I'm delighted they thought of me," says Ayhan.

He is not the only one in search of rehabilitation at Gala. Alongside him will be that other great Turkish *enfant terrible,* Sergen Yalcin.

Interesting times ahead.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Galatasaray
Country Turkey
Born February 23, 1977, in Inegol
Previous clubs Gaziantepspor, Besiktas
International debut February 1998, v Israel
International caps 6 (0 goals)

Keeper dies after clash of heads

Victor Gusev and Oleg Zadernovsky on the tragic loss of Serhii Perkhun

RUSSIA

CSKA MOSCOW's Ukrainian goalkeeper Serhii Perkhun died in hospital 10 days after lapsing into a coma following a clash of heads with Anzhi Makhachkala striker Budun Budunov during a League game.

At press time, Budunov was still confined to hospital suffering serious concussion, a condition that threatens his playing career.

Perkhun, 23, had become an instant favourite with the CSKA fans since arriving in Moscow last spring, and his good form had led to his recent inclusion in the Ukrainian national squad. He made his international debut as a substitute away to Latvia just a week before his fatal accident.

The keeper first came to prominence when making his League debut for his hometown side Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk aged 16. He moved on to Serif Tiraspol of Moldova, from where he joined CSKA.

Perkhun's tragic death came 10 years after another CSKA keeper, Mikhail Yeremin, also 23, was killed in a car crash.

Serhii Perkhun in action for CSKA Moscow

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WORLD SOCCER has teamed up with **Amstel**, official sponsor of the Champions League, to offer readers the chance to win VIP tickets to see a First Group Stage match in the Champions League, and four runners-up will receive a case of premium quality Amstel beer.

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Liverpool v Borussia Dortmund, October 30
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On the postcard, please indicate which match you would like tickets for and please give your address and a daytime telephone number.

Travel and accommodation are not included and this competition is unfortunately open to UK readers only.

Closing date for entries is **October 18**.
The winners will be announced on our website, **www.worldsoccer.com, on October 19.**

Entrants must be over 18 years of age. Usual IPC competition rules apply.

UKRAINE

Perkhun's death casts a shadow

THE death of new international keeper Serhii Perkhun cast a long shadow over preparations for the World Cup qualifiers in early September, which were already presenting national team coach Valerii Lobanovskyi with a number of difficulties.

Regular first-choice keeper Olexander Shovkovskyi is a long-term absentee through injury, and the situation degenerated when Moscow Spartak keeper Maxim Levytskyi was forced to withdraw from the squad after injuring an elbow joint. This led the coach to call up experienced Torpedo Moscow keeper Valerii Vorobiov, who last played for Ukraine in 1999. Shakhtar Donetsk keeper Yurii Virt and Kyiv Dynamo's Vitalii Reva were also included in the party, though neither had played for Ukraine before.

In the end Virt got the nod, and kept two clean sheets in the wins over Belarus and Armenia which lifted Ukraine into second place in Group 5.

The 1-0 friendly win away to Latvia in August was Ukraine's first victory of 2001, and marked the debut of Dnipro defender Serhii Zadorozhnyi and Metalurh Donetsk midfielder Serhii Shyschenko, as well as Perkhun, a half-time substitute for Levytskyi.

At club level, Kyiv Dynamo defeated Steaua Bucharest 5-3 on aggregate to reach the Champions League group stage for the fifth time in succession.

Shakhtar Donetsk lost 5-1 to Borussia Dortmund to drop into the UEFA Cup. CSKA Kyiv joined Shakhtar and automatic qualifiers Dnipro in the first round proper after beating Jokerit of Finland 4-0 on aggregate in the qualifying round.

POLAND

National team break unbeaten record

THE national team were not at their best during the 1-1 draw away to Iceland in August, but the result broke

the Polish record for unbeaten games at international level.

Jerzy Engel's side went into the September World Cup qualifiers on the back of a 12-match run without loss, breaking the previous best set in 1974-75 under coach Kazimierz Gorski.

However, having then extended the run to 13 by beating Norway 3-0 in Chorzow – the result that put Poland into the 2002 World Cup finals – they crashed 4-1 in Belarus four days later.

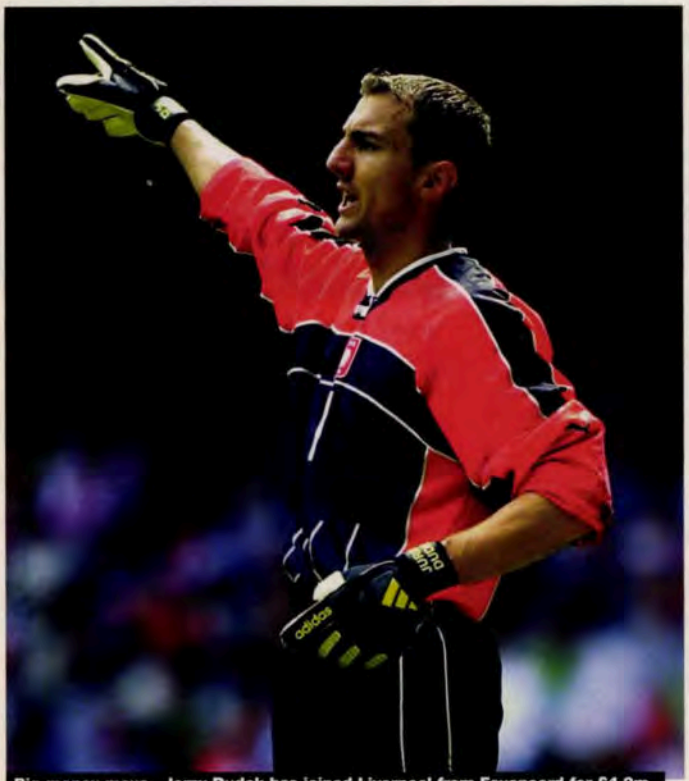
Just before the two qualifiers, national keeper Jerzy Dudek became the most expensive Polish player of all time when joining Liverpool from Feyenoord for £4.9million.

At club level, Wisla Krakow's dream of reaching the Champions League group stage was ended by Barcelona, who had come from behind in the third qualifying round first leg in Poland to win 4-3 on the night. The Catalan side defeated Wisla 1-0 in the return, despite the Poles adopting an extremely defensive style, to win through 5-3 on aggregate.

The result meant Wisla went into the UEFA Cup first round together with Polonia Warsaw, 6-0 victors over Total Network Solutions of Wales, and Legia Warsaw, who beat Etzella Ettelbruck of Luxembourg 6-1.

However, Pogon Szczecin were unexpectedly eliminated by Fylkir of Iceland, losing 3-2 on aggregate after conceding a goal in injury time at the end of the second leg.

On the domestic front, Stomil Olsztyn's 6-1 defeat by Legia Warsaw was their heaviest ever at home and sent them to the bottom of League Group B.



Big-money move...Jerzy Dudek has joined Liverpool from Feyenoord for £4.9m

But it has not been all plain sailing for Legia. War has broken out between the supporters and chairman Leszek Miklas after he introduced higher ticket prices in an attempt to discourage the infamous hooligan element among the club's followers from attending games.

In protest at Miklas' action, fans invaded the pitch during the away leg of the game against Etzella in an attempt to ensure that Legia received financial punishment from UEFA.

Dariusz Kurowski

Pro-file Valentin Bialkevich

Belorussian international in the wilderness for 'treachery'

KEY midfielder Valentin Bialkevich has played his last game for Belarus – that would be the reasonable conclusion after both he and his Kyiv Dynamo team-mate Alexandre Khatskevich were kicked out of the national squad by Eduard Malofeyev on the eve of their recent home World Cup qualifier against Poland.

The incandescent head coach revealed the pair had been axed for failing to follow his instructions during the 2-0 World Cup defeat by Ukraine in Minsk 48 hours earlier, a result that meant the Ukrainians leapfrogged over Belarus into second place in Group 5.

"Bad play for the national team is treachery," stormed Malofeyev. "They completely disobeyed what I told them to do and now must suffer the consequences."

To make matters worse for Bialkevich and Khatskevich, Belarus did just fine without them. They promptly beat group winners Poland 4-1, a result that kept them in the hunt for a play-off berth.

The international outlook is gloomy for Bialkevich and Khatskevich, but calls are being made for clemency. Their supporters argue that both men were major doubts for the Ukraine game because of injury and could not give of their best. Indeed, certain reports claim the pair left for international duty against the wishes of the Kyiv Dynamo management, who feared their conditions would be worsened by more painkillers and intense World Cup action. What's more, neither player has been noted for an excess of individualism before.

Bialkevich has proved a diligent and versatile team man since moving to Kyiv from Dinamo Minsk in 1995, giving full value whether in a playmaking role on the right side of midfield, pushed further forward in attack or even at the back.

It will be a shame if Bialkevich does miss Belarus' crucial final World Cup qualifier, away to Wales. He is technically gifted, has great vision, is hard-working and scores some important goals.

"Bialkevich has developed tremendously since joining Kyiv, and he is a very influential player for Belarus," says the republic's most famous footballing son, ex-USSR midfield star Sergei Aleinikov. "With someone of his wonderful ability in the side, it's not too fanciful to imagine Belarus in the finals of an international tournament."

Eduard Malofeyev, take note.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr)
Country Belarus
Born January 27, 1973, in Minsk
Previous club Dinamo Minsk
International debut October 1992, v Ukraine
International caps 36 (7 goals)
Honours Belorussian League 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995; Belorussian Cup 1992, 1994; Ukrainian League 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001; Ukrainian Cup 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000

Teixeira on the ropes

Brian Homewood on the latest crisis facing the Brazilian federation president

BRAZIL

THE BRAZILIAN Football Confederation (CBF) and its beleaguered president Ricardo Teixeira are in even more trouble after Globo television aired a stinging documentary on the deplorable state of the sport in Brazil.

The programme contained a number of serious allegations against Teixeira, who was accused of getting rich on the back of the CBF and using the organisation to get his money to tax havens.

The CBF and Teixeira have been under investigation by Congress for over a year but this is the first time that Globo, which is enormously powerful in Brazil, has joined the attack.

Globo holds the rights to almost everything in Brazil that involves a round object being chased around a field by 22 men and has always been given special treatment by the CBF.

The network is allowed exclusive interviews with national team players and is always the first to know when a new manager is appointed.

Brazil matches are timed to fit neatly into its schedule, always kicking off after the eight o'clock soap opera has finished, even for away games, thanks to the cosy relationship between the CBF and other South American federations.

Therefore, Globo has avoided directly attacking the CBF and Teixeira – until now.

The programme increased the pressure on the president to step down, but he insisted, via a statement, that he did not intend to give up his job and quickly began a political offensive that would enable him to cling to power.

Teixeira's first move was to get back at Globo, which he did by persuading his close ally, Julio Grondona, president of the Argentinian Football Association (AFA), to change the time of the Argentina-Brazil World Cup qualifier in Buenos Aires.

The game, initially due to start at the Globo-orientated time of 9.45pm, was suddenly and mysteriously brought forward to 8pm four days after the documentary was aired.

This was a huge inconvenience for Globo, which for years has built its evening schedule around two sacred pillars – the main news, which begins at 8.15pm, and the eight o'clock soap, which actually starts at 9pm – and absolutely hates moving either of them.

It was not the only time that Teixeira used the national team as a pawn in his political games.

When Luiz Felipe Scolari was named as coach last June, the announcement took place on the same day as a commission of inquiry in the lower house of Congress was voting on its final report, which bitterly attacked Teixeira. The report, which has been passed to public prosecutors, contained allegations very similar to Globo's, as reported earlier in *World Soccer*.

And three days after Globo's damaging documentary, Scolari brought forward the naming of his squad to face Argentina in a move apparently designed to deflect attention from the latest scandal.

Teixeira's behaviour over the kick-off time of the Argentina game was very much that of a naughty schoolboy, but the CBF president was then victim of what appeared to be a taste of his own medicine.

Teixeira organised a private meeting with the presidents of Brazil's 27 state federations to draw up a strategy to save his neck. But the conversation was recorded by a radio station via a mobile phone after one director failed to disconnect a call.

Brazilians were able to hear Teixeira describe Geraldo Althoff, a Senator who is leading the second Congressional investigation into football, as mad and refer to him as "Stick Face".

"We can't afford the [Senate's] report to be approved…I know what they're preparing in the Senate. Don't imagine that it's just Ricardo Teixeira and the CBF they will be after…The entire structure of Brazilian football is at stake," Teixeira said.

Teixeira, left with a red face rather than a stick face, was forced to issue another statement, in which he described the recording of the conversation as "a criminal act".

"The comments attributed to my person, by the clandestine recording, happened after a few days in which I was the victim of twisted and distorted attacks and lies, and the emotional context was aggravated by the fact that I'm suffering from problems with my health," he said.

The whole situation has made the future of Brazilian football even more uncertain. Shortly before the documentary was aired, a new four-year plan had been unveiled by an unholy alliance of Globo, Teixeira, Pele and the Brazilian sports minister.

The 'calendar' foresaw a great reduction in the state championships – which occupy the first half of the Brazilian season – and more time for the Brazilian championship as well as 'regional' competitions such as the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament. In addition, Brazilian clubs were to pull out of the dreadful Mercosur Cup, which is played at the same time as the Brazilian championship.

After the documentary was aired, however, Teixeira quickly turned to the presidents of the state federations for help. This is almost certain to mean that the state competitions will be given more importance in return for the backing for Teixeira.

Under fire again...Ricardo Teixeira

In the other corner we have the 'Club of 13', a group of 20 (not 13) of Brazil's biggest clubs. Most of these are fed up with the state championships and were pleased with the changes.

Other elements in the equation include Pele and the marketing company Traffic. Pele is a former foe of Teixeira but buried the hatchet earlier this year and backed the four-year calendar. He has not commented specifically on the latest allegations against the CBF president, much to the disappointment of many commentators.

Traffic effectively organises the Mercosur Cup, for which they sell television and marketing rights. They have worked closely with the CBF, but have fallen from favour recently.

As the Brazilian press point out, getting rid of Teixeira is not easy even though he has become one of the most unpopular men in the country. Government intervention appears to be out of the question and the presidents of the state federations and club, who have the power to kick him out, still seem quite happy to be in bed with him.

In the meantime, the Senate's commission of inquiry will continue and is due to summon Teixeira for another grilling in early October.

If they have their way, the clubs will form their own league and Teixeira will become like the Queen of England, a figurehead with no real power.

Marcelinho sacked by his team-mates

MARCELINHO CARIOCA, last year voted Brazil's most hated footballer by readers of *Placar* magazine, has been forced to end an eight-year spell at Corinthians after being shunned by his team-mates.

In an unprecedented move, the entire Corinthians squad gave a TV interview in which they made it clear that Marcelinho was persona non grata after telling tales to the media about rifts in the squad.

"What he did was unforgivable, there's no way back," said midfielder Ricardinho.

"It was betrayal," said striker Paulo Nunes.

"Nobody trusts him any more. He was a traitor and he can't come back because there are people who want to punch him," added central defender Scheidt.

Coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, who rejoined the club in February after a controversial two years in charge of the national team, also rejected the former hero. "Betrayal is something which is not accepted in football," he said. "I will not work with Marcelo [Marcelinho] again, at Corinthians or at any club at which I work in the future."

Appearing as a guest on a TV variety show, Marcelinho wept copiously as he accused Luxemburgo of holding a personal grudge against him and trying to wreck his career. He eventually left the club to join Santos.

Deeply unpopular...Marcelinho

Marcelinho, a free-kick specialist with an uncanny ability to swerve the ball, has helped Corinthians win numerous titles, including two Brazilian championships and the inaugural FIFA World Club Championship in 2000.

But he has never been a popular figure. The main criticism is that he tries to give the image that butter would not melt in his mouth – yet behaves completely differently. He credits his victories to Jesus but at the same time has an awful reputation for kicking opponents and storming off in a sulk every time he is substituted.

Many believe it was this sort of behaviour that caused Marcelinho to finish top of the *Placar* survey, winning 43.1 per cent of the votes in a readers' poll.

While all this was going on, Corinthians flopped in the Brazilian championship, going six matches without a win.

Luxemburgo claimed he was the victim of a conspiracy orchestrated by "friends of Marcelinho and the opposition" as he was booed and jeered at a number of games.

But then Luxemburgo himself (remember, he has been accused of taking commissions on the transfer of players and lying about his age) is not the most popular of figures.

As Fernando Calazans pointed out in *O Globo*: "Marcelinho is the player's equivalent of Wanderley, and Wanderley is the coach's equivalent of Marcelinho."

Corinthians' arch-rivals Palmeiras led the qualifying stage of the competition (28 teams play each other once with eight going into the knockout stages) despite coach Celso Roth getting the dreaded chant ("burro, burro, burro" – donkey, donkey, donkey) at almost every home game.

Seven coaches lost their jobs in the first month of action, including two at Guarani. The changes included the return of 1982 World Cup striker Serginho at Santos, seven years after he was kicked out as coach for butting a reporter in the changing-room. "Those days are in the past," he said.

Brian Homewood

Pro-file Juan

Young centre-back offering hope amid the Brazilian gloom

BRAZIL coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has made it clear that his option to switch to three centre-backs is based on fear. "The centre-backs we have aren't able to recover when they are one-on-one against opposing strikers," he said.

It is hardly a vote of confidence in Brazil's current crop of defenders. There is one, however, who is earning rave reviews.

"Juan was once again the highlight of the Brazilian defence," wrote former great Tostao after the game against Paraguay in August. "He's getting better every day. He's firm and calm, positions himself well, has a good leap, passes well and scores goals when he comes forward for set-pieces. He has certainly incorporated some of the qualities of the exceptional Gamarra [the Paraguayan defender so highly regarded in South America]."

For a brief spell Gamarra and Juan played together for Flamengo, leaving veteran coach Mario Zagallo enthusing about having "the best centre-back partnership in the world".

The Paraguayan was highly impressed with the young Brazilian. "In terms of technique he's the best centre-back partner I've ever had," he said – extraordinary praise bearing in mind Gamarra's national team success alongside Celso Ayala.

Juan is quick to acknowledge his debt. "Gamarra gave me good advice," he says. "With his skill and experience I learned a lot."

He had, though, started learning long before, and many of the lessons came the hard way. At the age of 17 he was thrown into the first team at Flamengo, one of Brazil's biggest and most turbulent clubs. A serious young man from a middle-class background, he had the strength of character to grow up in public.

Such has been Juan's progress in the past two years that now a move to Italy seems a matter of time; Lazio have already had a bid turned down, and Inter appear very interested.

Scolari, though, seems yet to be fully convinced. "He wants me to shout more on the pitch," says Juan, who by nature is one to let his football do the talking.

Juan was surprisingly left on the bench for Brazil's visit to Argentina, though Scolari had reason to regret his decision. Brought into the side was Lucio, who marked tightly but was frequently caught in possession. And Scolari favourite Cris scored the winning goal in his own net.

It all makes Juan's claims difficult to ignore. Establishing himself in the national team looks set to be one more conquest for Don Juan, lover of the well-timed tackle.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Flamengo
Country Brazil
Born February 1, 1979, in Rio de Janeiro
International debut July 2001, v Peru
International caps 5
Honours Mercosur Cup 1999; Rio state championship 1999, 2000, 2001

Play resumes but strike threat lingers

The dispute over unpaid wages is over – for now. Eric Weil reports

ARGENTINA

THE opening championship finally got under way two weeks after its scheduled start when the players agreed to end their strike over unpaid salaries.

Yet the vote to return to action was far from unanimous and as we went to press problems arising from the new pay arrangements were already being reported.

The strike had been called when the FA and the clubs were unable to abide by the payment conditions agreed to earlier in the year. Following the players' strike in May over the same issue, the FA had agreed to pay 35 per cent of the outstanding wage bill by the end of that month, with the clubs paying the balance by the end of July.

Neither part of the bargain was met in full, but the players were persuaded to call off their most recent protest after the FA revealed new measures intended to guarantee payment of the salary shortfall.

The association has said it will use revenue from an extra televised League game per week to meet its share of the unpaid wage bill. Meanwhile, it has persuaded a bank to administer the clubs' payments in 18 monthly instalments, using revenue from an existing TV contract as collateral.

Only time will tell whether the new arrangements can deliver; all that is certain is that the threat of another strike will always exist while the problem of unpaid wages goes unresolved.

Boca Juniors, who offloaded no fewer than 25 players during the close season for economic reasons, got off to a bad start when action resumed. They lost 3-1 at home to Belgrano Cordoba, who only just escaped relegation last term.

Two of Boca's departees were Jorge Bermudez and Hugo Ibarra, suggesting that the defence could well be suspect. However, the purchase of Japanese international forward Naohiro Takahara offers some promise. The former Jubilo Iwata player impressed on the field pre-season and, commercially, could prove a godsend for the financially troubled club.

Closing champions San Lorenzo got off to a winning start, beating newly-promoted Nueva Chicago 3-0 away. Yet the club are among the deepest in debt, and financial constraints are threatening the cohesion of the squad. Defender Fabricio Coloccini and striker Sebastian Abreu have already departed the club, while last season's top scorer, Bernardo Romeo, is up for sale.

The lack of money to buy in younger talent has provided an opportunity for a number of veterans to return to the Argentinian top flight from abroad. Goalkeeper Angel Comizzo (to River Plate), Jose Basualdo (to Velez Sarsfield) and Alberto Acosta (to San Lorenzo) are all close to 40 years old, and offer little hope that the quality of play will improve.

Commercial bonanza...Boca's Naohiro Takahara

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

FIFA bans Olimpia

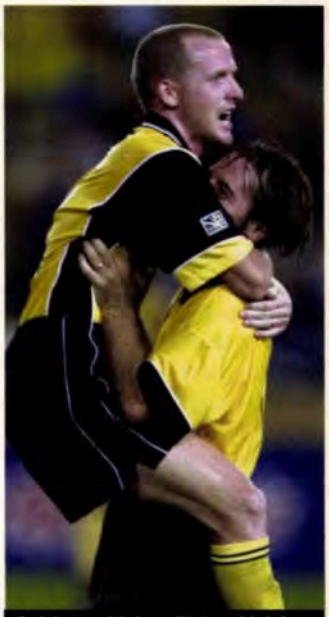
FIFA has suspended **PARAGUAYAN** champions Olimpia from international competition after the club took lawsuits against three players and a former president to the civil courts. The world body said that the suits concerned soccer matters, which, according to FIFA rules, should be dealt with by soccer tribunals.

Olimpia have appealed against the decision, but in the meantime they have been barred from competing in the Mercosur Cup, with scheduled opponents awarded 2-0 wins.

In **COLOMBIA**, the Medellin derby between Atletico Nacional and Independiente has been cancelled by the city authorities for three years because of the bad behaviour of fans during previous encounters.

URUGUAYAN international Sebastian Abreu scored both goals on his debut for Nacional, as they overcame Bella Vista Paysandu 2-0. The striker, nicknamed 'El Loco' because of his crazy on-field antics, starred last season for Argentinian closing title winners San Lorenzo.

Eric Weil



Quick to criticise...Bishop (right)

Soccer still only second best

The game is not yet part of the American national psyche, writes Paul Gardner

USA

IN its quest to be accepted as a soccer power – or at least as a soccer nation – the USA has got a lot of things right. It has qualified for the last three World Cups. It has staged a highly successful World Cup. It has around 30 promising players who are on the books of European clubs. It has a pro league whose clubs have performed well against international competition. And it has – according to FIFA – more soccer players than any other country in the world: 18 million. (If you're wondering, China has only 7.2 million.)

Yet, somehow, the soccer world seems reluctant to welcome the USA on equal terms. It seems that there is no real soccer *culture* in the USA, no soccer traditions.

It has occurred to some fans here that one important factor that is lacking is the hooligan element. Enter Chris Hummer, organiser of Operation Mayhem. Before the USA's September World Cup qualifier against Honduras in Washington DC, Hummer made an

appeal on his website, saying true-blooded American fans should show up at the airport en masse to greet the Honduran team and give them a boisterous, hostile reception.

The USA has traditionally been the target for that sort of abuse whenever it plays in Central America. "We don't want those teams to think this is a vacation when they come here," Hummer told the *Washington Post*.

The same sort of thing had been tried last year when Guatemala visited. The Mayhem people managed to get into the Guatemalans' hotel, with the intention of giving them a sleepless night; hotel security threw them out.

The bash at Dulles International airport was even less successful. Hummer's plan was quickly discovered by the local Spanish-language press and radio stations. They made their own appeal for Honduran fans to get out to the airport.

No contest. "What a crappy turnout," said Hummer, as only about a dozen Yanks showed up – to be swamped by some 500 Hondurans.

As genuine hooliganism, it was all pretty tame. No one got beaten up, nothing was trashed and the Honduran players never saw any of it – the team was taken quietly out by another exit.

Fan hooliganism may not be quite up to snuff yet, but player violence is coming along nicely. Games featuring Chicago Fire, one of the favourites to take the MLS title this year, have a tendency to explode into multi-player brawls. A recent meeting between Fire and Dallas Burn featured just such a brawl, 43 fouls, eight yellow cards, and two Chicago players taken to hospital with injuries.

After a similarly nasty game last season, Chicago coach Bob Bradley blamed the whole thing on the referee, an attitude that suggests that Americans have little to learn from the rest of the world when it comes to official-bashing.

Maybe they learn it from the foreign players who come here. It didn't take Ian Bishop, the veteran English midfielder now with Miami Fusion, long to sound off on the subject: "The officiating I've seen so far has been diabolical," he said – after playing a mere five games!

His coach Ray Hudson, another Brit, chimed in with his opinion that US refs lacked the nous of international officials, who "have a far greater kinship with the players and understand intent" – no one, apparently, having told Hudson that intent was written out of the rules six years ago.

Another MLS coach has had his say. DC United's Thomas Rongen told the *Boston Herald* "we need to go with younger referees with professional playing experience who can feel a game and can feel a foul and look at something nasty and not red-card guys."

If Rongen's criticism had a despairing tone to it, there was a reason for that. For the second year in a row DC United – once the pride of MLS – failed to make the play-offs. This despite a highly touted reorganisation at the beginning of the season.

The extent of DC's failure and the fans' frustration came when a group of supporters paid £300 to hire a plane to fly over RFK stadium during a game trailing a banner that read: "It's the coach, stupid!"

Tampa Bay Mutiny, Colorado Rapids and New England (Boston) Revolution, were the other sides to miss out on the play-offs. The Washington and Boston situations are particularly frustrating for MLS, because these are two cities that have shown consistently loyal support for their teams.

Another frustration for the League – an embarrassment really – is that at the very time, September, when the MLS season is coming to its climax, gridiron football teams play their pre-season games. As most MLS teams share stadiums with gridiron teams, this means scheduling problems. The MLS teams are always the secondary tenants, so they cannot always get the dates they want for play-off games.

Soccer's secondary status is further emphasised by a look at the playing fields, where gridiron markings suddenly dominate the layout. Then there is the issue of TV coverage. While MLS has had adequate (about three games per week) national telecasts of its regular season games, the coverage begins to falter once college and pro gridiron games are available.

MLS Cup – the grand final on October 21 – is scheduled for national coverage. But play-off coverage is scant. Each play-off tie consists of a three-game series – a maximum of 18 games (12 quarter-final, 6 semi-final). Of these, only three are scheduled for national TV.

Pro-file Mamadou Diallo

Big Mama – Tampa Bay's mother of all goalscorers

AFRICAN players have graced the various leagues in North America for decades now, but few have made as quick an impact as Mamadou Diallo of Senegal.

The tall striker has a reputation as being a journeyman, his career having taken him from Port Autonome in Dakar to Morocco, Switzerland, Turkey, Norway, Germany and now Tampa Bay on the Florida coast. There he is known as 'Big Mama' and is among the hottest properties in US soccer after scoring 26 goals in his first season in MLS last year.

The Senegalese came to the US almost by accident. MLS had an agent in South Africa seeking players before the 2000 season, and Mutiny were going to buy the Mozambican striker Tico-Tico from Jomo Cosmos. Instead they saw Diallo, who was on a pre-season tour with his Norwegian club Lillestrom and ready for a move after several feuds with coach Arne Erlandsen.

Lillestrom had actually loaned Diallo out to rivals Valerenga before he went to the USA and the Senegalese poacher made sure they regretted the mistake by scoring twice against Lillestrom during his short spell at the relegation-threatened side.

Norway had been a fairly profitable stop for Diallo, who had previously played at Duisburg in Germany; with Zeytinburuspor in Turkey and Switzerland's St Gallen. But it took time for him to settle and Diallo picked up a reputation for indiscipline during his time in Scandinavia.

He has been no saint in MLS either, twice serving suspensions last year and being banned for several games this year after hitting out at a spectator who had allegedly racially abused him.

Former coach Tim Hankinson says: "Diallo is big, athletic and dynamic. He has the ability to grab the attention of the [opposing] defence." His nickname, 'Big Mama', came from a movie starring Eddie Murphy. His team-mates started calling him that after learning that Diallo has used much of his earnings from soccer over the years to buy houses for his mother and several relatives back home.

Senegal is now something of a distant memory for Diallo, who was 22 when he left home to play at Morocco's Kawkab Marrakesh. He did play for Senegal at the 1994 African Nations Cup finals, but he has been in the international wilderness for some years now. However, given his recent form in the States, Senegal coach Bruno Metsu is said to have him in his plans.

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Tampa Bay Mutiny (USA)
Country Senegal
Born August 28, 1971, in Dakar
Previous clubs Port Autonome, SOTRAC, Kawkab Marrakesh (Mor), St Gallen (Swi), Zeytinburuspor (Tur), Duisburg (Ger), Lillestrom (Nor), Valerenga (Nor)
International debut January 1992, v Togo
International caps 25 (10 goals)

Al Ahly top against the odds

The Egyptians have overcome numerous obstacles to lead their group, writes Mark Gleeson

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

EVEN the most zealous Al Ahly fan – and there are a plethora of them in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world – would have given the Cairo club scant chance of making any impact in this year's African Champions League.

The loss of the domestic League title to arch-rivals Zamalek in May, the bust-up with the experienced Hassan twins, a change in coaching staff, and the arrival of a number of young, inexperienced players suggested that this year's continental competition would prove to be too severe a test.

Yet after Ahly won their first two group stage matches, the doubters are now believers. The Egyptians were the only side in either of the two four-team groups to have kept a 100 per cent record after the first two rounds, and are well on course to reach the newly-introduced semi-final stage.

Yet the victories were not all plain sailing. The team looked nervous in the opening game against Petro Atletico and appeared likely to succumb to the Angolans' early pressure in the daunting confines of Luanda.

Then a mix-up in Petro's defence allowed Alaa Ibrahim to sneak a fortuitous early goal, sparking more furious pressure from the Angolans, resisted only by some miraculous goalkeeping from Essam Al-Hadari, one of the few older hands on deck.

But with 10 minutes of the first half remaining the moment came when Ahly probably made the transition from being boys to serious contenders. A weaving run from Hossam Ghaly down the right was rounded off with a superb cross to the far post, which was efficiently headed home by the diminutive Nigerian Sunday Ikeji. Ahly eventually won 3-1, then beat Chabab Belouizdad of Algeria at home in their next game.

Their chances of finishing top of Group B have been enhanced by the early failures of Ivory Coast's ASEC Abidjan, who took just one point from their first two outings, including a rare home defeat at the hands of Petro.

In Group A, South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns have suffered a spectacular failure, while the well-drilled Esperance are showing their expected competence.

The Tunisians were top of the standings after two games after again investing considerable resources into their campaign. First, they brought on board Algerian Ali Fergani as coach, before setting up a training base in Rome, which they use ahead of Champions League ties to keep away from the pressures of home expectation.

Esperance are seeking a third successive visit to the Final and a chance to overcome the disappointment of losing to Raja Casablanca in a penalty shoot-out in 1999 and then in controversial circumstances to Ghana's Hearts of Oak last year.

Sundowns' undoing has been of their own making. Five players are threatening to take the club to court over allegations that their contracts were forged; meanwhile, Sundowns missed the chance to register three new players because they were unaware of a new deadline set by the confederation.

The registrations have since been allowed to go through but not before Sundowns were held at home by Esperance then lost away to Nigeria's Julius Berger, despite dominating the game and missing a penalty.

Full support...Al Ahly can count on their legion of passionate fans to roar them on in the quest for African Champions League glory

Al-Yamani badly hurt in crash

Head injuries...Mohamed Al-Yamani

EGYPTIAN international Mohamed Al-Yamani, who plays in Belgium with Standard Liege, suffered serious head injuries in a car accident while on holiday at home in Ismailia. He had just returned from helping the Egyptian Under-20s pick up the bronze medal at the World Youth Cup in Argentina. Al-Yamani's car rolled after a tyre burst and at first it was thought he would not survive.

Al Ahly raised the ire of Palestinian political activists by wearing the logo of sponsors McDonald's during their friendly win over Real Madrid in Cairo. The activists claim the Egyptian club were supporting 'American imperialism'.

Ismaili have signed the Kenyan trio of Simoen Mulama, Pascal Ochieng and Isasiah Omondi from Nairobi's Mathare United.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA**, USM Alger won the **ALGERIAN** Cup for the fifth time by beating Second Division CRB Mechara 1-0 in the Final before a 75,000 crowd in Algiers. USM struggled to overcome their supposedly inferior opposition, teenager Hocine Achiou scoring the only goal in the 19th minute.

Italian Serie B side Genoa have signed three **TUNISIAN** internationals, who all helped their country qualify for the World Cup Finals. Hassen Gabsi joined from Esperance, the champions, Raouf Bouzaiene moved on a free transfer from Club Africain, while Khaled Badra was signed from Turkish club Denizlispor. Genoa's coach, Francesco Scoglio, was Tunisian national team boss until earlier this year when he fell out with the federation.

MOROCCO'S champions, Raja Casablanca, have appointed Youri Sevastienko as their coach for the new season. The Ukrainian takes over from Sylvestre Takac, who resigned after the club failed to qualify for the last eight of the Champions League.

EAST AFRICA

EEPCO have secured the title in **ETHIOPIA**, ending the long-standing dominance of defending champions St George, who finished second.

The annual **EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP**, the oldest competition in African soccer, has moved its dates this year to fit in with a four-nation event in Tanzania. The regional tournament for the 13 CECAFA members, to be staged by Rwanda, was due to be played from October 27 to early November but has been pushed back to start on December 1.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Maxaquene won the Cup in **MOZAMBIQUE** by beating Textafrica 3-1 in the Final.

Mozambican international winger Jossias has been bought from champions Costa do Sol by South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs, qualifiers for the quarter-finals of the African Cup-winners Cup.

ZIMBABWEAN international Benjamin Mwaruwaru, who was named Footballer of the Year in South Africa in May, has signed for Swiss champions Grasshopper from Johannesburg club Jomo Cosmos.

SOUTH AFRICAN champions Orlando Pirates' second League match of the new season was abandoned after two of their players – internationals Josep Ngake and Thabo Mngomeni – attacked the referee near the end of the game at Ajax Cape Town.

German property developer Dieter Bock has bought control of Johannesburg club Moroka Swallows.

Oliveira Goncalves has resigned as coach of **ANGOLA'S** Under-20 side after leading them to victory in the African championship in Ethiopia in February. He has taken up a post at Inter Luanda, who are in the quarter-finals of the CAF Cup. Goncalves' replacement with the Under-20s is Yugoslav Vesselin Jelusic.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO coach Sidiki Diarra has been fired in the wake of his country's disappointing recent performances and a player strike ahead of the World Cup qualifier with Zimbabwe in July.

The country's federation has also blasted the national team for refusing to play in Harare in a row over bonuses. The players refused to board a plane for Zimbabwe because bonuses from a previous match, against South Africa, had not been paid. Instead, Burkina Faso's Under-17 team were sent and lost 1-0 to a makeshift Zimbabwean side.

The draw for the WAFU Nations Cup has pitted hosts Senegal against Ivory Coast in the opening game of the eight-team tournament. Gambia and Togo are the other teams in Group A. Group B is headed by Nigeria, who face Cape Verde Islands, Mali and Sierra Leone. The tournament starts in Dakar on September 28 and concludes on October 7.

Alliance Bouake lifted the Cup in **IVORY COAST** with a 2-0 win over neighbours ASC Bouake. Ferdinand Congo and Issa Traore scored the goals.

Africa Sports have sacked Italian coach Franco Cuccinota after a poor run of results left them straggling in the wake of rivals ASEC Abidjan.

Onze Unidos, the **CAPE VERDE** champions, say they will not compete in next year's African Champions League because it is too expensive to participate.

Assault on referee...Thabo Mngomeni

L'Akokana FC, from the provincial northern town of Arlit, won the **NIGER** Cup 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw against Jangorzo.

Mark Gleeson

Troussier's men carry on impressing

Japan's victory over Australia shows the squad's increasing strength, write Mike Plastow and Yumiko Nagae

JAPAN

In the thick of it...Atsushi Yanagisawa scored and won a penalty against Australia

JAPAN continued their remarkable run in August with a commanding 3-0 win over Australia in the inaugural AFC/OFC Challenge Cup, which replaces the old showdown between the Asian and African champions.

Japan seldom looked troubled as they raced to an early lead through Kashima Antlers striker Atsushi Yanagisawa. Toshihiro Hattori added the second with a 25-yard drive, and World Cup veteran Masashi Nakayama completed the scoring from the penalty spot with his first kick of the game.

Nakayama was handed the role of taking the penalty having been sent on to the field in place of Yanagisawa, the player who had won it.

"Nakayama is the symbol of Japanese football," explained coach Philippe Troussier. "It was wonderful the penalty came at just the right time. I told Yanagisawa that it was an opportunity for me to give it to Nakayama, and I think he understood."

The performance against Australia was also impressive in view of who wasn't there. Troussier left out his rapidly-growing foreign contingent of Hidetoshi Nakata (Parma), Shinji Ono (Feyenoord), Junichi Inamoto (Arsenal), Akinori Nishizawa (Bolton) and Naohiro Takahara (Boca Juniors), proving again he now has the squad to fit seamlessly into every vacated position.

The Asian champions have turned around since losing 5-0 to France in Paris at the start of the year. They have still only conceded two goals since, in injury time against Spain in the spring and then against France again in the Confederations Cup Final.

The J.League's Second Stage also kicked off in August with a strong early showing from last year's treble winners, Kashima Antlers. Injuries took their toll in the First Stage and Toninho Cerezo's side slipped to a mid-table position. The loss of left wing-back Naoki Soma with a broken leg was especially disrupting, though Antlers seem to have found a fine replacement in new signing Augusto. He has made an immediate impact in Soma's position, as well as scoring with a delightful free-kick against Consadole, and Antlers again look the team to beat.

Yokohama F Marinos have also leapt back from finishing just one point from the bottom in the First Stage. New Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni has brought three countrymen with him – Brito from Fluminense, Nasa from Vasco da Gama and Dutra from Sport Recife – and the recipe has worked with Marinos winning their first three games.

Steve Perryman faced a difficult start in his new job at the helm of Kashiwa Reysol, with the team taking only one point from their first two games, and losing South Korean libero Hong Myung-bo with a broken leg. However, a 5-2 win at Avispa Fukuoka put Reysol back on course.

The troubles continue for Cerezo Osaka, who so nearly won the 2000 First Stage but now stare relegation in the face. The club dismissed Korean stars Noh Jung-yoon (now at Avispa) and Kom Do-keun during the break, and then their Japanese manager Hiroshi Soejima as well.

Soejima's replacement is former Antlers manager Joao Carlos, who was himself recently sacked by Nagoya Grampus Eight.

Grampus have again started strongly, now under Japanese coach Tetsuro Miura, but thoughts are still on the glory days of Dragan Stojkovic, otherwise known as 'Pixy', who hung up his boots at the end of the First Stage. Moves are under way to name a Nagoya shopping thoroughfare after him and also to raise a monument. That wouldn't be quite without precedent. There is already a Zico statue in Kashima.

SOUTH KOREA

Songnam back on top

FORMER K-League and Asian Club Champions Songnam Ilhwa moved to the top of the League standings with a 3-1 win over Ulsan Hyundai in what has become one of the most closely-fought championships of recent years.

With 17 of the 27 rounds played, Songnam, who won three Korean titles and the continental crown under their previous name, Ilhwa Chunma, were top, narrowly ahead of former champions Pusan Icons, defending champions Anyang Cheetahs and another previous Asian Club Championship winner, Pohang Steelers.

One of the sparks of Songnam's revival has been the signing of Yugoslav striker Sasa Drakulic, who inspired Suwon Bluewings to the League title in 1998 and 1999 before leaving for Japan's Kashiwa Reysol.

Drakulic's goals (11 to date) have taken Songnam to the top, along with the guile and intelligence of veteran Korean midfielder Sin Tae-yong and new Brazilian signing Irine.

Current Asian champions Suwon were top at the end of August but consecutive defeats and the loss of 23-year-old World Cup midfielder Ko Jong-su put the dampers on their championship ambitions. Ko's injury, a ruptured tendon in his right knee, has not only ruled him out for the rest of the season but also put a question mark over his ability to continue playing.

Michael Church

In the balance...Ko Jong-su's knee injury threatens his career

Singapore to co-host Tiger Cup

SINGAPORE have been handed a co-hosting role for the 2002 Tiger Cup after it had initially been decided that Indonesia alone would stage the tournament.

The Final, third-place match, one of the semi-finals and one of the tournament's two groups will still be played in Indonesia, but with Singapore hosting the other group and second semi.

ASEAN federation secretary Dato' Paul Mony Samuel said: "It will give more of our members the opportunity to stage competitions, and added value to the spectators."

The tournament is contested by the 10 member nations of ASEAN, an economic group comprising Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei and Vietnam.

Singapore previously hosted the event in 1996, the first year of the biennial tournament. Thailand are the current champions, winning the title in Bangkok last November with a 4-1 victory over Indonesia.

The 2002 Tiger Cup will be played from August 30 to September 14, with the Final in Jakarta's Senayan stadium.

Michael Church

ROUND-UP

Dozens hurt in Bangladesh riot

BANGLADESH'S worst football violence for years broke out during a game between Mohammedan and arch-rivals Rahmatganj at Bangabandhu National stadium in Dhaka.

Police fired tear gas and used batons in an attempt to quell the rioting, which began when Thai referee Inwat Nanthaninht turned down a Mohammedan appeal for a penalty. Dozens of people were injured, including players and policemen, and more than 100 vehicles were damaged when the violence spilled on to surrounding streets.

The League Committee later fined Mohammedan's manager and two players, while the Asian Football Confederation has asked the FA for a report.

Calcutta side Mohun Bagan won **INDIA'S** Federation Cup for the 11th time, beating Goa's Demo 2-0 in the Final with goals from Brazilian striker Jose Bereto and Nigerian Abdullatif Seriki.

Penang won **MALAYSIA'S** Premier One title for the first time since 1998, completing their triumph with a 3-1 win over Negeri Sembilan. The new champions were drawn with Kedah, Perlis and Sabah in Group D of the Malaysian Cup. Selangor, Johor FC, Negeri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpurin contest Group A; Sarawak, Kelantan, Pahang and NS Chempaka, Group B; and Perak, Kelantan TNB, Kelantan JKR and Terengganu, Group C.

Double Flower will replace Instant-Dict in the **HONG KONG** League, which was scheduled to kick off on September 19. Instant withdrew at the end of last season, along with Senior Challenge Shield winners Yee Hope.

THAILAND coach Peter Withe has been given a new two-year contract, worth £5,500 a month. By the end of the term, the former Aston Villa forward will have been in charge of the national team for five years.

Clubs from **KAZAKHSTAN** have been barred from this season's Asian club competitions in the wake of their national federation's decision to withdraw from the Asian Football Confederation. Kazakhstan is applying to join UEFA and hopes to enter clubs in European competition in the 2002-03 season should their application be approved at a UEFA meeting in October.

Contract boost...Peter Withe

Pakhtakor of Tashkent beat Neftchi 2-1 to win the **UZBEKISTAN** Cup for the third time.

Michael Church, Azam Mahmood, Vladimir Kalinkovich & G C Das

Just a waste of time

Japan defeat leads Australian chief to put the block on 'under-strength' friendlies, writes Paul Moon

AUSTRALIA

AN AUSTRALIAN team including just three members of the side that had eliminated New Zealand from the World Cup two months earlier was swept aside 3-0 by Japan in the inaugural Asia-Oceania Challenge Cup in Shizuoka.

The hosts were much the better side, despite being without their Europe-based players, and cantered home through goals by Atsushi Yanagisawa, Toshihiro Hattori and Masashi Nakayama.

The game was of little value to Socceroos coach Frank Farina because he had such an under-strength squad. This led newly-installed Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop to pledge that the Socceroos would henceforth decline to play senior internationals unless they are able to field something close to their strongest possible side. To give his words substance, he immediately cancelled scheduled fixtures against the Solomon Islands and Lithuania.

On the home front, former Uruguayan international Antonio Alzamendi was dismissed as Canberra Cosmos coach just four weeks after his recruitment and before his side had played a single game. It was no fault of Alzamendi's – just that the club's new owners preferred to have former Tahiti national team manager Leon Gardikiotis in charge.

The most notable of several other coaching changes was Mike Petersen's move from South Melbourne to Auckland Kingz. Petersen replaces Wynton Rufer, who, at 38, will remain with Auckland as a player.

Futile exercise...Socceroos coach Frank Farina learnt little from the Japan game

Playing on...Wynton Rufer

EAST TIMOR

New nation, first coach

IVAN CENGIC, an Australia-based Croatian, has become East Timor's first official national team coach. He took up the post after receiving a personal invitation from independence leader Xanana Gusmao, who is set to become the fledgling nation's first president when elections are held next year.

Cengic played professionally for Croatian club side Osijek but has had little involvement with football since emigrating from his homeland in 1986.

He concedes that his appointment is due more to past support for East Timorese welfare and political organisations than any proven coaching ability, although he has already guided Timorese Under-19 and Under-14 teams with some success; the former won the prestigious Arafura Games title in Darwin under his command.

Cengic, a building company owner, is donating his services free, including paying his own air fares from his Canberra base to Dili, the capital of the former Indonesian province.

His aim is to play a significant role in helping East Timor gain a place in the international football mainstream.

The country's two immediate goals are FIFA membership within a year and entry into the 2003 World Youth Cup qualifying rounds.

Paul Moon

NEW ZEALAND

Top two fight it out for title

MIRAMAR RANGERS and Central United, who finished first and second during the regular season, successfully negotiated the semi-final stage and were set to meet in the National League Grand Final.

Rangers reached the end of season showdown automatically by beating United 1-0 in the so-called major semi-final, open to the top two teams from the 18-game League stage.

However, United made full use of their 'second life' by overcoming Manawatu, third in the regular table, 5-2 a week later to qualify for the championship decider.

Metro, who have finished bottom for the past two campaigns, have withdrawn from the League citing money problems and difficulties in acquiring a suitable ground.

Their place will be taken by the winners of a tournament involving the three regional league champions – North Shore United, Wellington United and Caversham – all former members of the National League.

Paul Moon

CROSSWORD

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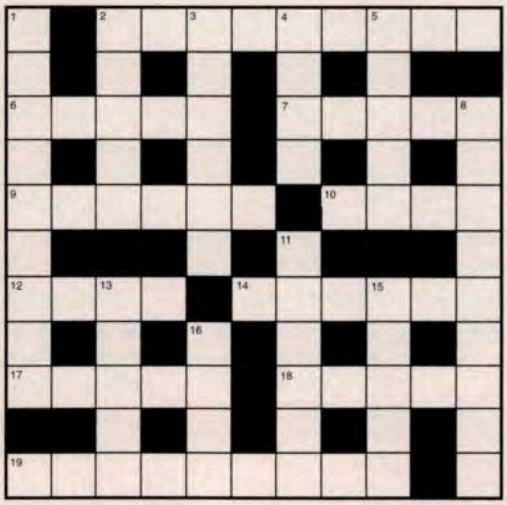
ACROSS

2 31-goal winners against American Samoa in April (9)
6 Greece-based Liberian defender formerly of Monaco and Nice (5)
7 Ex-Croatia Zagreb defender relegated with Vicenza last season (5)
9 Romario's fellow Vasco da Gama forward in Scolari's Brazil squad (6)
10 Ex-GDR and Germany midfielder who rounded off his career with spells at Bari and Hamburg (4)
12 Senegal midfield stalwart recently with Saint-Etienne (4)
14 Feyenoord midfielder first selected for Holland last November (6)
17 Czech defender who established himself at Fiorentina (5)
18 Ex-Belgium star appointed Charleroi's coach and president last term (5)
19 Luxembourg's champions in 2000-01 (9)

DOWN

1 Dutch keeper ousted by Buffon at Juventus (3,3,3)
2 Former Santos defender who moved from FC Porto to Palmeiras last year (5)
3 Homeland of Europe's reigning Golden Shoe winner (6)
4 Aurelio's successor as Palmeiras coach (4)
5 Montero's central defensive partner in Pua's Uruguayan national side (5)
8 2001 Danish Cup winners (9)
11 ------ Nader, Moroccan striker successful with Farense in Portugal (6)
13 Vienna club represented at the 1985 Cup-winners Cup Final (5)
15 Peru coach rebuilding after the dismissals of Oblitas and Maturana (5)
16 Young Everton defender given his first England cap by Eriksson (4)



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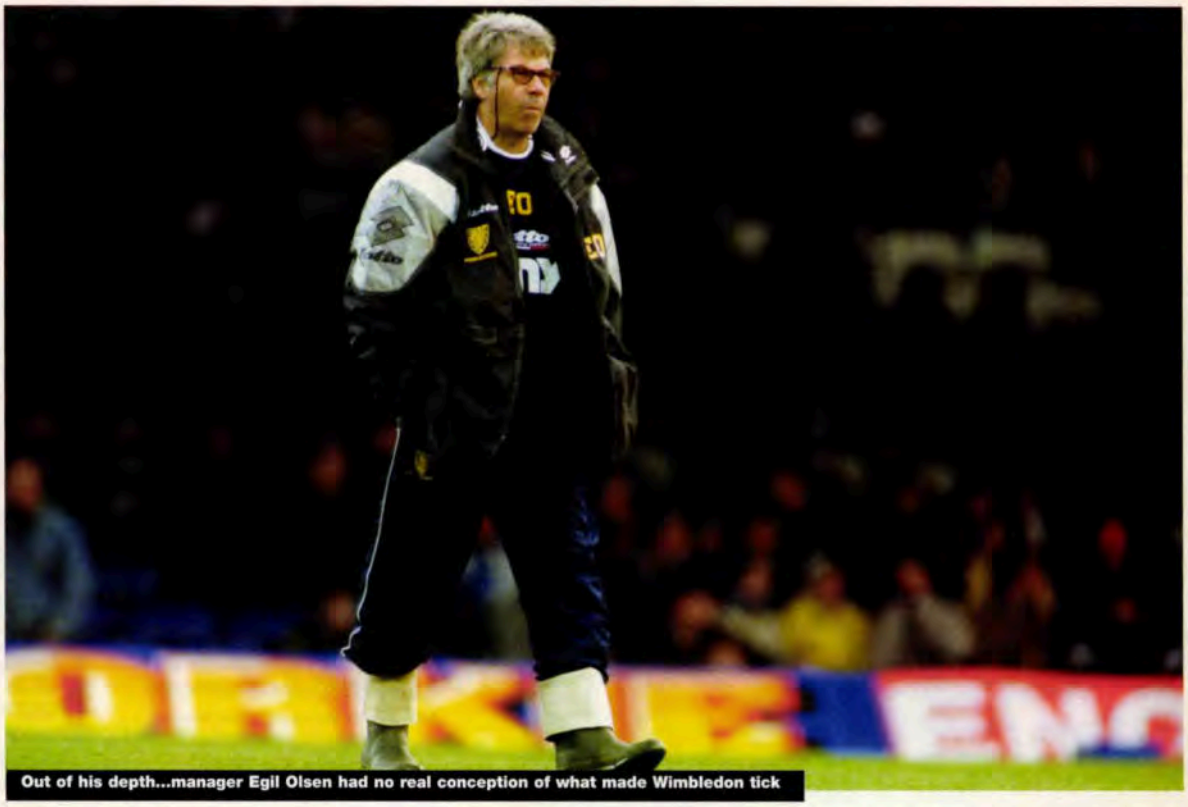
Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'The club, established in the urban wilderness of Milton Keynes, would have nothing to do with Wimbledon'



Out of his depth...manager Egil Olsen had no real conception of what made Wimbledon tick

Dons' move makes hard-headed sense

THE projected move of Wimbledon to Milton Keynes is a vexed question indeed. You can understand the outrage of the club's small but devoted body of fans at the very suggestion. At the same time, looked at in the most coldly clinical way, it makes some kind of sense.

Sentimentalists about football, of whom I confess to be one, have long despaired at the way Wimbledon have had to leave their own borough after so many decades, to play across London at Selhurst Park.

It seems especially ironic that former chairman Sam Hammam, who romantically heard about the club and its predicament from a taxi driver, saved it with his money, then left it, should become the villain of the piece for Wimbledon fans.

The truth is, however, that Wimbledon were effectively doomed the moment Hammam sold a controlling interest to those distant Norwegians, who had not the remotest grasp of what the Dons were all about, nor any hope of imbibing the spirit that had propelled the long-time amateur club the whole huge distance to the FA Cup Final and victory over Liverpool at Wembley.

The Norwegians showed their ineptitude by appointing Egil Olsen, their compatriot, to the managership of the club. In his own quirky, politically deft, hyper-theoretical way, Olsen was a very successful manager indeed – for Norway. But at Wimbledon he was monumentally a fish out of water, and the team disintegrated around him. Terry Burton, the present manager, is Wimbledon through and through, but he has been left to pick up the pieces.

Certain leading fans talk about going back to play at Plough Lane. If only! As I understand it, the club no longer own the site, having sold it to Sainsbury's, which has reportedly been refused permission by the local council to build a supermarket there. So it is going to rack and ruin, not even used, in these days of such colossal pressure on London space, as a facility for schools and the like.

Moving to Milton Keynes – 50 miles away in Buckinghamshire – would indeed alienate the fans, who, goodness knows, have had more than enough to bear in this last decade in having to trudge all the way across London to Selhurst Park. But the cold-blooded way to look at it would be to accept that such a club, established in the urban wilderness of Milton Keynes, would have nothing to do with Wimbledon as a club and suburb of London at all.

My mind goes back many years to far more substantial uprootings of clubs far more famed in their day than ever Wimbledon have been. I'm talking about the translocation to California, 3,000 miles away, of those famous baseball teams the Brooklyn Dodgers, now in Los Angeles, and the New York Giants, now in San Francisco. These were bitter blows to their respective fans. You could just about imagine Wimbledon making the journey to Milton Keynes; but to California? I remember being quite shocked at the time, though hardly a baseball fan.

Both clubs have flourished in the Californian sunshine, but then the USA is a continent rather than a country; and in England there will be few proposed moves such as this one to Milton Keynes. Yet I understand that the Premiership approved of the Dons moving all the way to Dublin, a previous proposal. Stern official resistance to Milton Keynes seems oddly inconsistent.

Hargreaves: good enough so old enough

HOW young is too young? When Sven Goran Eriksson picked the 20-year-old Owen Hargreaves, from Canada via the Bundesliga, for England's friendly against Holland in August, his manager at Bayern Munich, Ottmar Hitzfeld, protested that he was much too young and it would be wrong to put him on the field.

In the event, Eriksson ignored the protest and proceeded to deploy Hargreaves disastrously, wide on the left of midfield. There, he languished in sad isolation, dependent on being given the ball, which so seldom happened, unable to exploit his chief talents, which, when properly used in central midfield, are to involve himself vigorously and effectively in the game, winning the ball, using it with economy, and from time to time bursting into attack.

As it happened, getting the ball against Holland became such a rarity that Hargreaves was plainly under huge pressure to do something effective on the occasions that he had it. The result, inevitably, was negative and dispiriting.

Subsequently, Eriksson has cheerfully defended Hargreaves' performance, insisting that he cannot be judged on a single game – which is perfectly true. Hitzfeld's fear, though, was that a single game could undermine the boy's confidence.

So you ask yourself, how young is too young? Twenty is not, in fact, especially young at all for a modern international, even if you discount the ultra-precocious likes of Pele and Diego Maradona, internationals at 16.

Pele, as we know, scored three goals in the 1958 World Cup semi-final in Stockholm at 17 and two more supreme goals in the Final. But note that Maradona at 17 was actually excluded from the Argentina squad for the 1978 World Cup, played on their own territory, by his very mentor, Cesar Luis Menotti. A huge disappointment to him then and perhaps a choice that might have cost Argentina the World Cup.

Surely the dictum should be, if he's good enough, he's old enough. "If you don't put them in," Matt Busby once told me, "you can't know what you've got." Duncan Edwards was a star turn when 17. So was Norman Whiteside, who with Northern Ireland in 1982 became the youngest player to appear in a World Cup. George Best as a teenager was a phenomenon.

It's unfortunate that Hitzfeld's fears were justified that evening at White Hart Lane. But that was surely down to Eriksson's error.

Out of position...Hargreaves

Evaluating the captain's role

'BY you he's a captain, by me he's a captain, but by captains is he a captain?' is the punchline of a very old Jewish story, which keeps recurring to me when I read of captains and captaincy these days.

Inspiration...Blanchflower

At the start of the season, it looked as if Leicester manager Peter Taylor would make the newly acquired Dennis Wise his skipper; then he decided to confirm the somewhat unsettled Matt Elliott in the role. Who cares, I reflected, but soon it transpired that Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle does, for one.

"To me, captaincy is a very important job," he says. "You have to look at how they react in the dressing-room, at meetings. A captain, I feel, can lead from the front. He has to be the extension of your coaching staff."

Best of all at Spurs was Danny Blanchflower, who so inspirationally skippered them to the first Cup and League double of the century, in 1961, three years after leading Northern Ireland to the World Cup finals in Sweden.

Italians talk of captains as "the manager on the pitch". Yet back in the 1950s the captaincy of the *Azzurri* was taken lightly, handed automatically to the player with the most caps. On one occasion Fiorentina full-back Aldo Magnini, level highest caps winner with club-mate Sergio Cervato, took the captaincy on the basis of having made one more B international appearance!

Soccer captains have none of the power and influence, by and large, of their cricketing equivalents. The ever-increasing influence of managers and coaches has restricted even the clout that they do have.

I'd never condemn David Beckham for hardly being a rocket scientist, but can anyone pretend he is ideal captaincy material, a fitting successor to the cool and unflustered Bobby Moore?

Filling in the background to the PFA's Lowry

CHRIS HARTE, that indefatigable sports historian, foreshadows in his society's bulletin a theme he will return to in a forthcoming book: namely the mystery of *Going To The Match*, that famous L S Lowry painting of a pre-war game at Bolton, not long ago bought in auction at Sotheby's by the Professional Footballers' Association for not much less than £2million.

But from whom and how did they ever get it? I've failed so far to find out, though I was called on by Sotheby's to write about the painting in their brochure. Lowry entered it in 1953 for an FA arts competition to commemorate the association's 90th anniversary. Subsequently the FA exercised its right to buy it for £3,000, no great fortune even then.

Chris points out that in due course Denis Follows, as FA secretary, lent the painting to Vic Wayling, who, at Hitchin Town's ground, ran the first football museum. When Wayling died, Chris pursues, and his son showed scant interest in the museum, the painting was put into storage.

Then what? Alarmingly, Chris tells how Bryon Butler, much missed, once told him that an infinity of expensive objects had disappeared from FA HQ at Lancaster Gate, eight of which he had once counted in the living-room of a former FA official.

Follows became secretary by default, because the voting committee were persuaded by the late and lamentable Harold Thompson to snub Stanley Rous's clear candidate, Walter Winterbottom. His role in this affair seems odd.

October 1981

THE surprise £1.2million transfer of Trevor Francis from Nottingham Forest to Manchester City earned him a place on the cover 20 years ago, while, inside, the move was described as "a further example of the unpredictability blighting English football".

In a forthright editorial, *World Soccer* stated: "Apart from the financial complexities involved in the plethora of £1million deals and the perplexity of the average fan, who has rapidly lost track of who plays for whom…Apart from all that, the game is making a fool of itself.

"*World Soccer* believes that the answer is to follow a practice commonplace throughout Europe and South America: ban all transfers during the season."

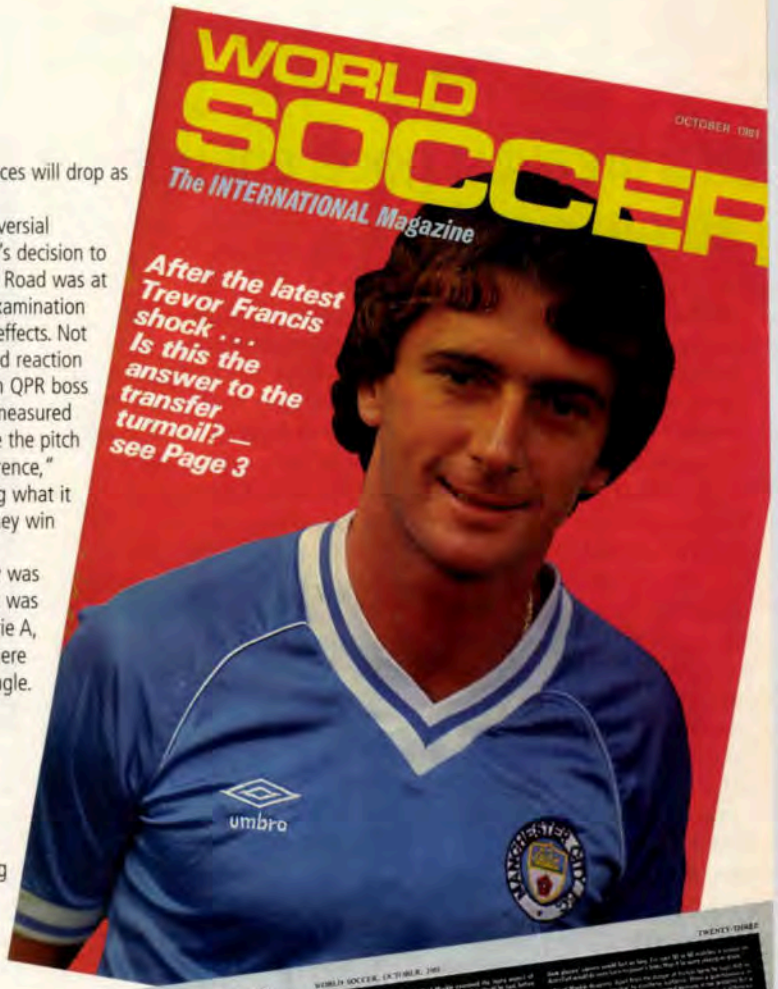
Francis was a member of the England team who had recently lost a key World Cup qualifier to Norway, a result that led Paul Parish to say: "English players have not got the same talents in the basics of control and passing possessed by foreign teams…even those as small as Norway. English players have speed and strength and, of course, commitment. That wretched word is just about the most idiotic in the 'over-the-moon' and 'sick-as-a-parrot' world of soccer dialogue."

The English domestic game was also the subject of some grave analysis, notably the falling attendances. Ron Saunders, manager of champions Aston Villa, felt numbers would drop even further because of the new three points for a win system. Showing little faith in the arithmetic ability of supporters, he said: "Fans used to work out the league tables, saying that 'our team are four points behind with a game in hand, so we need two wins to catch up'. Now, they don't know where they are, and attendances will drop as a consequence."

There was another controversial innovation: plastic grass. QPR's decision to lay a synthetic pitch at Loftus Road was at the heart of a *World Soccer* examination of artificial surfaces and their effects. Not surprisingly, there was a mixed reaction from British observers, though QPR boss Terry Venables was taking a measured view. "I honestly don't believe the pitch has made any profound difference," he said. "Human nature being what it is, players will love it when they win and moan when they lose."

The big innovation in Italy was shirt sponsorship, but while it was bringing serious cash into Serie A, Keir Radnedge pointed out there was a decidedly humorous angle.

"Milan have signed a £250,000-a-year deal with a firm producing a popular pair of jeans," he wrote. "It seems extremely funny to see the players, including Scotland's Joe Jordan, running around the San Siro pitch with 'Pooh' written across their chests…what would A A Milne have thought of it all?"



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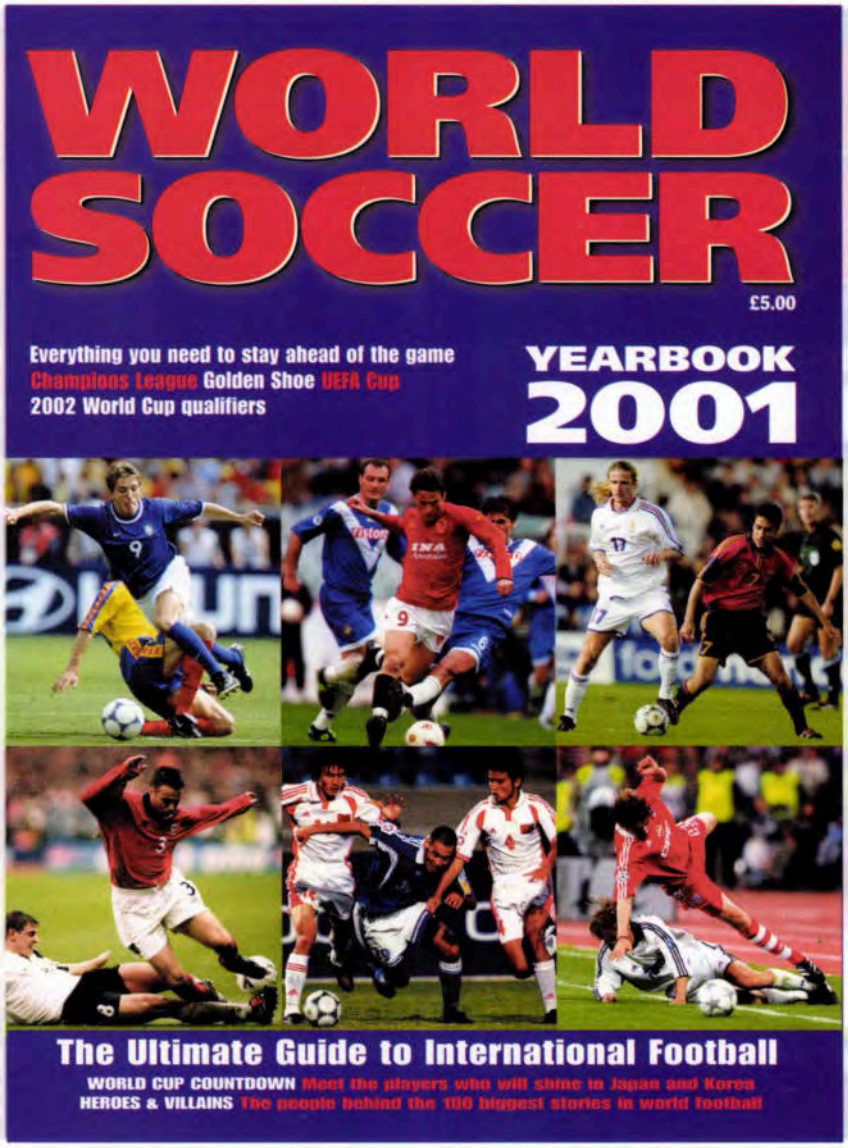

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